



**Artist not defined
by generation**

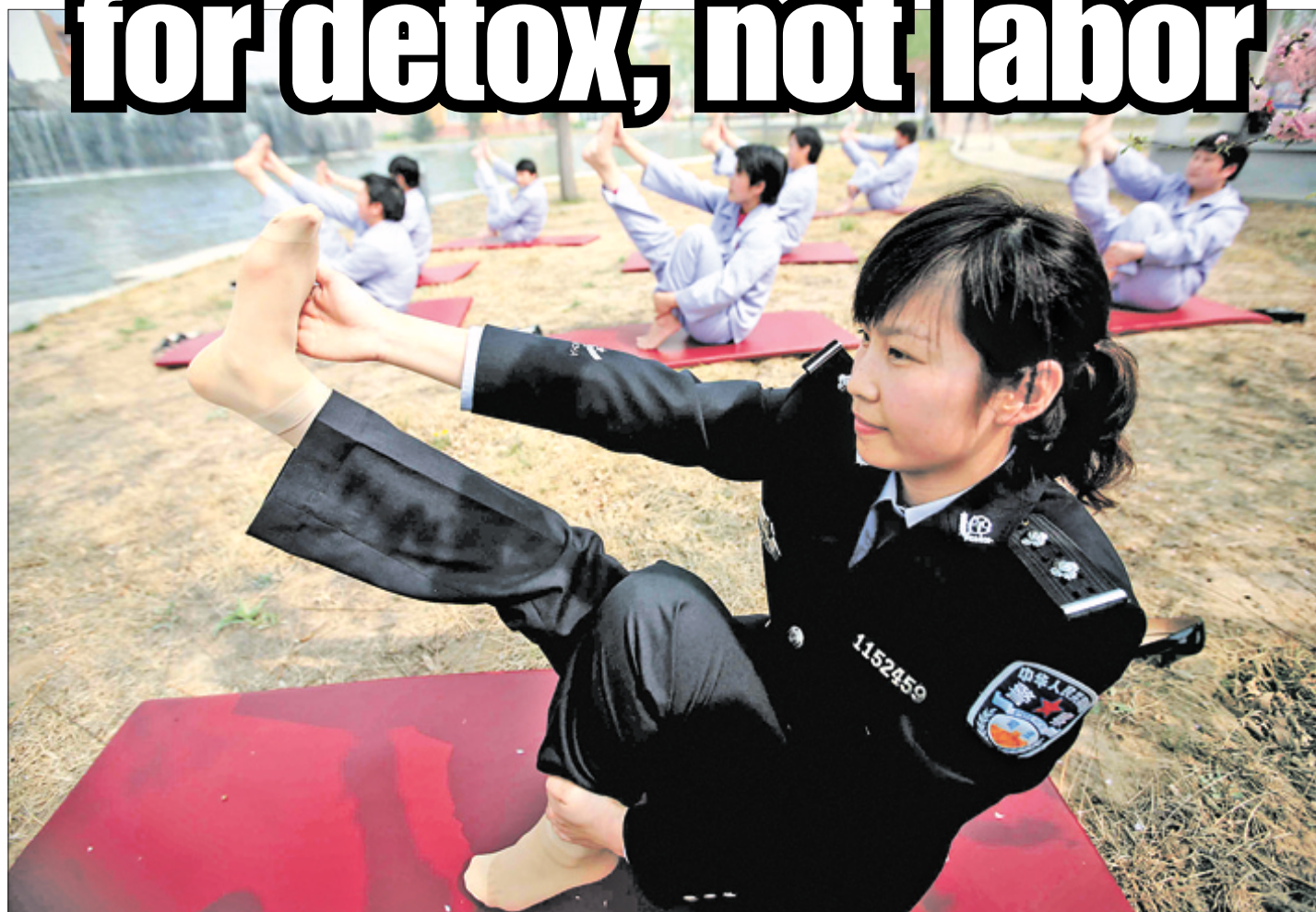
Pages 12-13



**Get a free
dose of history**

Pages 20-21

City's addicts bound for detox, not labor



Beijing Tiantanghe Detoxification and Rehabilitation Center began serving the capital's drug addicts Wednesday. According to new drug laws passed last June, all addicts will be sent to the detoxification center rather than being sentenced to undergo re-education through labor. Addicts currently serving in re-education programs will be systematically shifted into the detox center system through July next year.

(By Jin Zhu)
CFP Photo

**Shattered lives
of sex abused
children**

Page 3

**Tricks of
dogmongers'
dirty trade**

Page 4

**Zhongnanhai
cigs bad for
gov's image?**

Page 7

**Dead
encroach on
livings' space**

Page 8

BEIJING'S "1ST" MAGIC & COMEDY CLUB!
INTERNATIONAL ACTS! "MONDAY THRU SATURDAY"
THE "BRILLIANT" BRYSON LANG! SHOW & OPEN BAR 8PM ¥ 200
DISCOUNT SHOWS! "4" NIGHTS A WEEK FOR EVERYONE.....
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY
ONLY! ¥100 FOR EVERYTHING.....

Continental Airlines

PRESENTED BY

CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUANHU GARDEN TOWER S1
UPSTAIRS FROM SPORTS PUB!

TICKETS
59283045/46/47

Capital called 4th most competitive city

By Jin Zhu

Beijing is the fourth most competitive Chinese city, ranking just behind Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Shanghai in the seventh edition of the Blue Book on Urban Competitiveness released Tuesday by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).

The report compared 294 cities on the Chinese mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. The top 10 most competitive are Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Beijing, Taipei, Guangdong, Qingdao, Tianjin, Suzhou and Kaohsiung.

"The cities' competitiveness is mainly based on the per unit area of gross domestic product

(GDP), productivity of labor, economic growth rate and employment rate. After comparing with other cities, the annual report aims to provide useful information for policy makers on the country's urbanization drive," said Ni Pengfei, a leading researcher at the CASS Institute of Finance and Trade Economics.

"Beijing is most competitive in science and technology. Thanks to its capital status, graduates from the famous universities around the country are eager to get jobs in Beijing, so the city has the most and best-quality human resources," Ni said.

The municipal government has invested a lot in infrastructure to make the city more con-

venient. Since last year, its focus has been to develop major financial centers, he said.

However, in terms of environment it is less competitive. "Because of its geographic location, dust storms are common in Beijing, especially in the spring. Without the natural advantages of other cities, future environmental construction is a major project for the municipal government to keep the city livable," he said.

This report was CASS's first to rank the cities in a global context.

"The competitiveness of Chinese cities in a global perspective is lagging. The top four cities, Hong Kong, Shenzhen,

Shanghai and Beijing, are listed only 26th, 64th, 41st, and 66th on the Global Urban Competitiveness Report by the CASS. But since all the data were collected before the global financial crisis, the impact of the worldwide economic slowdown may not be reflected," Ni said.

"In the next 30 years, urbanization will become the major force behind China's economic growth," Yao Jingyuan, chief economist with the National Bureau of Statistics, said.

The report said Chinese cities stand at the middle and lower global cities when ranked on urban competitiveness. The gap between the coastal cities and the inland area is widening.

Report says factories leave, but soil pollution stays

By Venus Lee

A fifth of all Chinese farmland— 20 million hectares — is contaminated. At least a tenth of the total farmland is contaminated by industrial waste, and 1.3 million hectares use raw sewage for irrigation.

This pollution causes a yearly loss of 10 million tons of grain, and 12 million tons of food that is produces is contaminated. These problems together cause more than 20 billion yuan of losses each year, according to a report presented at the forum on Wetland and Soil Ecosystem Remediation at Shandong Institute of Environmental Sciences in Shangdong University.

Urbanization is pushing away traditional industrial bases to make room for housing. But "even after removing some high-polluting and high energy-consuming companies, the land on which they used to work could increase the risk of developing cancer or chronic disease if it is not cleaned up," Lin Yusuo, a specialist in Nanjing Environment Sciences Research, said.

There are two ways to remediate soil: in-site and off-site. The former puts the soil through chemical and bio cleaning, but takes at least 10 years to complete. The latter option takes soil to another place for treatment. The soil may be burned in an incinerator and buried once infused with a stabilizing agent, said Gao Shengda, the vice president of Beijing Construction Environment Remediation. "Off-site remediation is most common in China, but many local governments and domestic companies haven't given enough attention to the severity of the soil pollution and just bury the polluted soil, causing secondary pollution elsewhere," he said.

"Soil remediation is in its infancy in China compared to in advanced countries where it accounts for 30 to 50 percent of the environmental protection market," Gao said.

Song Yun, the general engineer of Light Industry Environment Protection Graduate School, said there are 30 to 50 billion potential markets for soil remediation in Beijing alone. The domestic urgency of soil remediation provides broad prospects for cooperation between overseas and domestic environmental protection companies.

"Although China has many strong environmental companies, soil remediation is just developing. The US, by contrast, has 30 years of experience in the field. The market in China is very promising," said Jiang Yuhong, the spokeswoman of US-based environment protection company Brisea International Development.

However, no law exists regulate soil remediation. There are no fixed procedures through which the soil should go. Some environmental protection institutes or companies use advanced countries' standards as reference when they carry out an assessment or evaluation of contaminated land, Song said. "The lack of a national standard on soil remediation puts the market in a still experimental and market-nurturing stage," Song said.

Country's first human-powered flying device lifts off in Shanghai



After two years, Mao Yiping wings "Mozi" took off for their maiden flight.

IC Photo

By Jin Zhu

A 42-kilogram flying machine "Mozi," China's first human-powered aircraft, had a successful test flight, Shanghai OXAI Aircraft Company announced on April 7.

Mao Yiqing, the aircraft's 46-year-old designer, pedaled the vehicle to soar 126 meters in 20 seconds at 2.8 meters off the ground in Shanghai's suburban Fengxian district, OXAI announced at its press conference.

Mozi has a 27.4-meter wingspan and a rudder for steering. It can carry one person who weighs less than 65 kilograms. When sitting in the fuselage, the pilot must pedal furiously

as if riding a bicycle.

"The design only looks simple. Actually, the manufacturing technology is so complicated that only a few countries have managed it, including the US, Britain, Germany and Japan," Mao said.

Mao said since the man-powered aircraft was completely driven by pedaling, its materials and construction were vital. "Every piece of equipment was carefully calibrated and tested before finally being used in construction," he said.

Mao was infatuated with model airplanes since childhood and always dreamed of being a pilot. Four years ago, he invested all his money to open the Shang-

hai OXAI Aircraft Company, which developed Mozi.

He and his colleagues are studying data gathered from Mozi's first flight to refine its design.

"Currently, a human-powered aircraft has no commercial value, but the technical details and experience are useful for developing a solar-powered aircraft, which would be much more useful," Mao said.

However, he was disappointed by the city's limited venues for test flights. "I searched everywhere using Google Maps before the flight test, and Fengxian was the only suitable area in the city," he said.

Mao said if there was more

space, his flight could have been as high as 15 meters off the ground.

"At present, there is a strict limitation on flight space in China. Since the country has appointed certain altitudes for private flying machines, it is unrealistic to plan on flying randomly throughout the city," Sun Weihong, a professional on the manufacture of flying machine in Shanghai Association of Inventions, said.

The company will launch another flight in June. "We submitted a flight application to the Air Traffic Management Bureau of East China and expect it to be better than the last one," Mao said.

Sexually abused children find little protection

By Annie Wei

The country was shocked last year when 11 girl students were sexually assaulted in Xishui County, Guizhou Province.

The Guizhou courts heard the case this week, and its proceedings highlight a dark undercurrent in rural society.

The Beijing Teenage Legal Aid and Research Center has released a new study based on its investigation of 340 cases of child abuse from 2006 to 2008. It suggests why these crimes happened, and where the law must improve.



CFP Photo

Children who live with their grandparents or other caretakers while their parents seek work in the city, were the bulk of the victims.

Laws too weak

Tong Lihua, director of the Beijing Teenage Legal Aid and Research Center, said the country's laws are too lax, especially when awarding damages to sexually assaulted children. Tong represented a case in which a girl victim was awarded only 100 yuan.

Tong said the awarding of damages for sexual assault has long been an issue. Current laws only require compensation for physical damages, ignoring the mental trauma involved in the rape of a minor.

Some 15 cases discovered by Tong never made it to court, because the girls' parents were unwilling to inform the police. Tong said the problem will not go away until the law is amended to include mental harm among other damages.

He is one of the lawyers who participated in drafting laws for China's Juvenile Rights Protection and the Beijing Juvenile Rights Protection Regulation. He has campaigned for minors' rights for 10 years, and has established a network of 8,000 lawyers willing to represent child victims of sexual abuse.

The victim's rights are often ignored, Tong said. In the Xishui County case, the victim's father Kang was never told the date of the trial and was barred from entering the courtroom. More broadly, the country lacks intervention measures for troubled teens.

Thirteen percent of all attackers in cases Tong studied were teens themselves. In eight of the cases, the victim of sexual abuse was boy. But Tong said that these boys may go on to commit their own crimes of revenge, since they were never protected or able to find justice in court.

Vulnerable rural children

Children who live with their grandparents or other caretakers while their parents seek work in the city, were the bulk of the victims: 68 percent of all victims were violated

by someone close.

Their guardians can rarely care for their children properly because they are too old or too poor, and the children are too rattled to report cases of abuse to them.

Migrant children, who follow their parents to the city, were also easy targets since their parents are not usually home. Tong's report called on more security measures for migrant workers and the schools in which their children enroll. The study also said that among 35 victims who were violated while looking for jobs, 54 percent were younger than 16 years old.

Broken families

While China traditionally places a great emphasis on ethics, a legal guardian or caretaker is the aggressor in as many as 70 percent of all cases of child sexual abuse.

In many cases, the child lives with a parent who remarried, or in a family without a mother or with a father who is in jail.

In Xishui County, the father of one of the 14-year-old victims surnamed Kang told the *China Youth Daily* his daughter "went to Shenzhen with her girlfriend to look for a job. The local police asked me to call her back so she could identify her attackers, but she refuses to talk about it and won't admit what they did to her." The girl was supposed to start her second year of Junior High, but she refuses to go, choosing to live on the street instead. "Sometimes, she wouldn't come home for one or two months," Kang said. "I caught her once and beat her. Cut her hair into a mess. That kept her in for a bit, but eventually she left again and quit coming home to sleep. I bought an iron chain to lock her in the house."

Kang blames himself for not giving his daughter enough attention. He left town to look for work when his daughter was five, and his wife played Mahjong instead of looking after their daughter.

Another victim, surnamed Wang, told

reporters that she hated her father the most. She said her parents divorced when she was four and sent her to live in the countryside with her uncle. After that she was sent to a boarding school. She said her father never cared about her and just gave her money.

"Similar situations were seen in other cases," Tong said.

School must get involved

Ten of the study cases happened on or near school grounds, Tong said. Criminals take advantage of the school's weak security and wait outside to force or lure the girls into prostitution.

In Xishui's case, the accused parties waited outside three middle schools and one primary school.

They would lure the students to a quiet place, threaten to inject them with drugs, beat them and photograph them in the nude.

Fifty of the cases which happened in schools were in rural areas or had a teacher or principal who was in on the abuse.

"The schools need to have a monitoring and reporting system for sexual assault," Tong said. When a child is sexually assaulted at school it is deeply damaging: both physically and psychologically.

Many schools lack management and education about sexual assault. In one case, they attempted to "make peace" between the teacher and student's parents, Tong said.

Long Di, an expert from the China Academy of Sciences Institute of Psychology, published China's first book on child abuse two years ago. In it, she said the Chinese mainland's methods for handling cases of sexual assault were very rude to the victims and comparatively backwards.

Many departments, including police, schools and parents, must be educated on how to support and care for a child who is a victim of abuse.

Tragedy for Xishui girls

The morning of April 8, 500 angry residents gathered outside the courtroom of Xishui, Guizhou Province, alongside national media to watch the trial.

However, considering the ages of the victims, the court delayed its opening from 8:30 am to 9:30 am and barred hundreds of the residents and reporters from entering. Only CCTV and Xinhua News Agency were allowed into the courtroom.

The case was first reported to local police in August 2008 by a woman seeking justice after her daughter was brutally raped. The police conducted a two-month investigation that rounded up seven suspects.

Xinhua Agency reported that six of the alleged attackers were teachers or government officials: one was a member of the local People's Congress.

Local police said that from October 2007 to August 2008, two high school drop-outs, a 14-year-old girl and her 15-year-old boyfriend, had been waiting outside the school to nab students for Yuan Li, the home of a 37-year-old woman with no job. Yuan was also known under the alias Yuan Ronghui. The two allegedly brought her 11 girls. Yuan contacted Feng Zhiyang, a high school teacher from No 1 Vocational High School; Li Shouming, office director of local migration department; Chen Mengran, director of an economic zone land management department; and Feng Yong a taxi driver, police said.

None of the victims were 18 years old: three were younger than 14.

The trial lasted 10 hours. The court will convene for sentencing.



The accused stood trial. CCTV Photo

Perils of shopping for the perfect pooch

From Chow to mongrel

A woman walked quickly through Tongzhou Liyuan dog market, her new "Chow Chow" in tow. She was searching for the stall-holder who sold her the dog several months ago.

"It looked like a cute baby Chow Chow when I bought it, but it has changed a lot," she said. A trip to the pet hospital revealed her pet was not a pure Chow. She failed to find the seller, but when others heard she paid 500 yuan for the dog they said it was obviously not a real Chow Chow.

"A pure baby Chow Chow never sells for less than 2,000 yuan," a nearby vendor said.

Dog sellers, especially the fly-by-night vendor variety, are notorious for passing off mixed dogs as purebreds. "That dog was probably the product of a male Chow Chow and common female," he said. The seller may have injected saline solution into the dog's chin, to give it the breed's characteristic look, he said.

"She is just lucky the dog isn't dead yet."

Other breeds are put through a battery of full-body countertop cosmetic surgeries. Some shave and stretch the skin of a Pekingese with iron wires to make it look like a Shar-Pei; others turn a generic white dog into Dalmatian. Poodles and Pomeranians are dyed and trimmed.

"After dyeing, the poodle comes out looking like an easy-to-sell teddy bear," Zhang Xinran, a Golden Retriever seller, said. Zhang has a kennel and has bred dogs for years. "Even I cannot tell whether they have been dyed sometimes," he said. Few experts can tell until the dog is given a bath.

"The hair dyes they use are not designed for dogs, since those special dyes would cut into their profits," he said. They turn instead to cheap, toxic dyes that sicken or kill the dogs soon after sale.

But beyond the usual skulduggery that plagues all Chinese markets, the most notorious is the "week dog": the pet that is only good for seven days. "They (dog sellers) buy animals with congenital diseases for next to nothing and pump them full of new blood laced with painkillers to keep them bouncy," Zhang said.

This, of course, aggravates their conditions and leads to a swift death. When the buyer returns, the seller throws the blame in his face. "They blame you for not taking care of the dog," Zhang said.

By Zheng Lu

To say the country has more than 100 million pets would be a conservative estimate. At least a tenth of its exploding pet population is dogs.

The market potential of pets is expected to reach 15 billion yuan this year, and thousands of pet stores are opening up to get a piece. However, despite being the most regulated of Chinese pets, the dog selling industry is almost entirely unregulated.



Sellers color their dogs to inflate costs.

CFP Photo



Stall-holders may be gone when the dogs they sell get sick.

The market in a mess

The Liyuan dog market in Tongzhou is the largest dog market in China. It developed spontaneously in the 1980s as breeders from northeast China brought their dogs into the city for sale. The market was shut down and scattered several times for its shady dealings, but it always came back. Since it could not crush it, the municipal government legalized it a decade ago.

Today, it is a bazaar which moves a million yuan worth of dogs and dog accessories every day.

In the market, there are two kinds of sellers: fixed shops that operate every day and pay rent to the market and those who rent temporary stalls. Some attempting to dodge the license and administration fees do not even set up shop, instead opting to stroll about shadily with a box or pocketful of puppies.

A woman selling a baby "Chow Chow" approached *Beijing Today's* reporter trying to sell it for 1,000 yuan: half the going rate.

Unlike these strolling vendors, the shopkeepers stand behind their dogs even if they charge more. "If the dog you buy in my shop has any problems with health or breed then you can bring him back," a shopkeeper selling baby Chow Chow for 2,000 yuan said.

Stall-holders or strolling vendors may vanish after leaving the customer with a "week dog".

"A white poodle dyed red can be sold for 1,500 yuan instead of 700 yuan," a stall-keeper who sold Golden Retrievers said. These days, red dogs are in fashion, so many vendors are turning their poodles and Pomeranians red. *Beijing Today* could not find a white poodles being sold by any stall-holder.

Another reason for the existence of the "week dog," some shopkeepers said, is that "since the dog may die right after you buy it, the seller expects you to return and buy another."

The man selling Golden Retrievers said he knew which vendors were selling "week dogs," "but I do not dare tell you who they are."

In one corner of the market was a big board with the words "We Buy Dogs." The vendor buys the unwanted dogs cheap and resell the animals based on breed and size. Even below the market price, the vendor still makes a killing.

"Unlike the breeders who have their own kennels and sell only specific dogs, those 'dogmongers' just purchase them from anyone and resell them cheap," a shopkeeper said. "Their profits are extremely high."

Guaranteed dogs

This reporter walking beside the bazaar asked a woman seller what her Huskies cost. Immediately, a minivan marked as a "Law Enforcement" car pulled up and honked at her. She got up, then directed the reporters to follow her down the side of the building to discuss business.

The minivan stopped honking and drove away.

It was driven by people appointed by the municipal government to chase off roadside vendors and those who sell dogs without license. They only drive the sellers temporarily into the bazaar, and within minutes the vendors are back on the street selling dogs.

"We just shoo them away instead of confiscating their goods, since their goods are dogs," an official with the city bureau said. "When we ask to see their license for selling animals, they deny that they are vendors and say they are carrying around their own pets," he said.

This reporter turned to the Tongzhou substation of the Industrial and Commercial Administration, which is in charge of the Liyuan dog market. The official there said anyone who purchases a dog "that is diagnosed as being sick" must go to the market's administration department to file a report.

The owner of the dog must then track down the seller and leave arbitration up to the Liyuan administration. At best, "the seller may give you another dog," the official said.

From the window of the Liyuan dog market's administration section one could see placards marking offices as "Registration" and "Quarantine," but these doors are bolted shut and no one is inside, even during work hours.

"There are no laws on pet transactions," an official with the China Animal Health Inspection Bureau said. The current market administration leaves everything to the buyer. Dog buyers should demand veterinary inspection certificates and proof of vaccinations. "To be extra sure, you should take the dog to a local animal quarantine station or pet hospital immediately," he said.

"Don't just buy a dog because it looks cute from dog sellers who don't have a licence. That only encourages the dog-mongers to keep up their illegal trade," he said.

Officials expect that laws on pet trade will be made eventually, and say China's current knowledge of animal welfare remains in infancy.



Photos by Zheng Lu



Ambitious health reform to cover each citizen

(AP) – The country announced plans to build thousands of new hospitals and put a clinic in every village in the next three years, the first steps in a decade-long reform plan to provide universal health care coverage.

Public health care has been underfunded for years, and the high cost and poor availability of services are among the biggest complaints of citizens.

The government will pump in 850 billion yuan to reform the ailing system in the next three years as part of an ambitious – and still only hazily outlined – plan to provide basic medical coverage and insurance to all of the country's 1.3 billion people.

"By 2011, we will remarkably improve the accessibility of basic medical care and health care services and alleviate the burden of the general public for medical costs," Vice Health Minister Zhang Mao said at a media briefing.

Health infrastructure in the poor countryside is especially creaky, and a report distributed at the briefing said clinic construction in remote and border areas would be a key priority.

"Within three years, every village in the country will have a clinic," the report said.

A total of 1.37 million cer-

tified health care practitioners will be trained to staff those clinics, it said, alongside about half-a-million more assigned to medical centers at the township and city level. China has nearly 700,000 villages.

The reforms also include plans to build 29,000 new township hospitals, and 2,000 at the county level.

Doctors will also be allowed to work in more than one facility, a change which one public health expert said would dramatically improve the quality of basic health services.

Financial details of the reforms have not been given but Finance Vice Minister Wang Jun said the central government will pay for 40 percent of the investment while local governments will provide the rest.

Priority will be given to impoverished central and western parts of the country which have fallen behind the prosperous coastal provinces in the east, Wang said.

The Health Ministry plans to release a list of essential medicines with controlled prices by the end of the year, raise the salaries of medical workers, and encourage more private investment in health services, said Ma Xiaowei, also vice health minister.

Analysis:

China's health reform holds challenges

(Reuters) – The new health care reform relies heavily on spending by cash-strapped local governments and may disappoint international companies eager to enter the market.

It will experiment with better pay structures for doctors, government support of hospital upgrades and partial privatization of some facilities.

It calls for local governments to fork out 520 billion yuan, or 60 percent of the cost of the program, through 2011. It could be

a burden for local governments.

"The document does call for increased use of commercial insurance, but that market remains largely closed to international actors," Drew Thompson, director of China Studies at the Nixon Center in Washington, said.

The new health plan calls for limiting the mark-up that hospitals and drug distributors can charge. But these institutes and agencies heavily depend on these profits for a living.

Expert's view:

We need to find the key points

The country has tried health reform three times. The first was in the early 1990s. It solved the problems and difficulties of seeking a doctor, but led to the high cost of going to a hospital. The second was in 2003 when severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) hit the country, but disappeared after SARS ended. This is the third time.

Health care reform in the country needs the central gov-

ernment's leadership. Privatization and marketization are not the final solutions.

The key things needed are more professionals, more medicines and equipment, price control on services and medicines, and insurance coverage.

Among these, the most critical is the price of medicines.

– **Liang Shiyi, secretary general, Chinese Association of Medication**



Who will pay the medical bill for him?

CFP Photo

2nd Edition

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN LIVING IN BEIJING

expat show

Beijing

May 22 - 24, 2009

China World Trade Center

10,000 Visitors

150 Exhibitors

Activities

Association Area

Chinese Culture

Kid Playground

Kindergarten

Food Court

Blood Drive

Bazaar...

Exhibition

Real-Estate

Education

Life-Style

B2B Area

Tourism

Finance

Health...

REGISTER NOW

to win lots of gifts

info@weacn.com

www.expatshowbeijing.com

Fair shows US properties in high demand

By Zhao Hongyi

As many as 70 real estate brokers and agents displayed their properties and blueprints at the International Real Estate Exhibition & Trade Fair over the weekend at the great hall of Beijing Hotel.

Most of the products were new and second-hand apartments, villas, commercial housing and land in need of development. Some brought blueprints looking for joint ventures or to explore the Chinese market.

It was the first time US property brokers gathered to sell products in groups.

"Residential property prices have declined 50 percent and commercial property prices by 20 to 30 percent," Allen Falk, of Great Palm Beach Realty in Florida, said.

"I hope to find potential investors to develop luxury villas for the rich in China," Allen said, displaying his book of villa designs.

Some companies displayed properties in need of residential construction.

"Our lands are close to the newly built China Town in Las Vegas," said Robert L. Lee, from TR Las Vegas, who is looking for partners for a joint development.

Most of the Chinese visitors were enthusiastic about the market and focused on apartments or condos their children could use while studying abroad.

"My daughter received a letter of acceptance from a university in San Francisco and we are looking for an apartment for her stay in," Li



US property was in high demand at the weekend's property fair.

Photo by Jackie Jia

Shuang, a fairgoer, said. "It's also a nice opportunity to invest."

The fair also drew commercial property brokers. Hart Corp, from Pennsylvania, was one of them.

"We have properties for commercial use, like warehouses, manufacturing plants and commercial centers, for sale throughout the US," Craug A. Nielson, Hart's vice president, said.

As many as 7,000 potential buyers visited the three-day fair

and signed 500 letters of intention. The fair also attracted visitors from provinces around Beijing, like Shandong, Hebei and Tianjin.

"The first group of 40 buyers will go to the US in May to visit the houses they are interested in," Wu Jiang, secretary-general of the Sino-American Trade Association said. "We'll send the following groups once every month, or twice every month as the demand is so high."

Wu said his association will invite agencies and brokers to participate in its second fair in August, which will tour Beijing, Shanghai, Dalian and Changsha. All the exhibitors from this fair will participate at the August one, Wu said.

The fair was part of the 2009 House Fair (spring), which has been held for the last decade. It meets once each season, and is a major event in the Chinese real estate industry.

Nestlé targets breakfast market with new cereal

By He Jianwei

Nestlé, the cereal producer, released a new lineup of cereals Tuesday morning.

Among them is a new Nestlé Cheerios made of oats, wheat, corn, barley and rice. The multigrain cereal provides a convenient and nutritious breakfast for students.

The company is targeting what it says is "less-than-ideal" breakfast habits seen among Chinese students, said Andreas Weckherlin, head of Nestlé Cereals Business Unit for greater China.

Cheerios have been a top

cereal brand since 1941 because they provide a convenient, healthy breakfast for busy people. "Nestlé Cheerios are a particularly good choice for students who need convenient and healthy 'fuel' for their brains and bodies throughout the busy morning," Weckherlin said.

Before Nestlé decided to release its new lineup, it made sure "six out of 10 consumers preferred the Nestlé product to a competitor's," said Anthony Low, head of Nestlé China Corporate Affairs and Marketing Communications Units.

About 65 percent of Chinese people want to know a lot more about nutrition and healthy diet, making China the most health-conscious market, according to a survey by Isos last year.

Nestlé Cheerios have been successful in Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore, which encouraged the company to explore the mainland market, Weckherlin said.

"Our surveys (in 1998 and 2008 among several Chinese cities) show that the risk of becoming overweight and obese is higher among students that skip breakfast than among those who have

breakfast every day," said Ma Guansheng, deputy director and professor of National Institute for Nutrition and Food Safety Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Chinese Nutrition Society said it recommends a daily diet that contains 300 to 500 grams of grain. "But in Chinese people's diets, the figure is less than 300 grams," Ma said.

Nutritionists agree that breakfast is the most important meal of the day and suggest people should get 30 percent of their daily nutrients from breakfast.

Market watch HRS.com transfers market to Chinese travelers

By Zhang Dongya

Hotel Reservation Service (HRS.com) is expanding its business to cover the thriving individual travel market in China. The new Chinese version of its global electronic hotel reservation system went online Monday at hrs.cn. The Chinese site is HRS's first foray into the Asia Pacific market.

The Web site is designed for Chinese users and has destinations, tips, travelogues and recommendations based on local preferences. The map search offers quick information about the culture and resorts at top destinations.

It will also carry travel blogs



HRS.cn was launched in Beijing this week. Photo by Dongya

written by fashion and business professionals, and overviews of various destinations. It currently has 20 top destinations with 300 blogs and 1,000 photos.

The system indexes 230,000

hotels in 180 countries. The hotels are broken down and categorized, and the site's preferential agreement with listed hotels can get net travelers a 10 percent discount.

According to research on hotel reservations, 70 percent of US residents book online; in China, only 5 percent use the web. HRS said the boom in Internet use and growing outbound travel ensure much room for its growth.

"We will provide best-in-class service to our Chinese users and fill the gap in the Chinese high-end business travel market by leveraging our strong overseas hotel resource. Whether it is

China's hotel industry or businesses and private travelers, we provide our customers with more choices," Tobias Ragge, CEO of HRS.com, said.

Ragge said he expects online hotel booking in China to exceed 75 percent within five to 10 years.

HRS entered China in 2000. Its branch in Shanghai focuses on business travel and online business travel management.

The company was established in 1972 in Cologne, Germany, and was one of the first to start an online hotel booking business. It serves customers in 32 languages online.

Shell talks with China on Iraq oil venture

Royal Dutch Shell PLC is talking to possible Chinese partners about a joint bid to develop oil fields in Iraq, CEO Jeroen van der Veer said this week.

"We are in the process of forming partnerships for certain bids, and Chinese companies are a part of that," van der Veer said at a news conference.

Van der Veer did not say which companies Shell is talking to, on which fields they might bid or why it was considering Chinese partners. He said the bidding deadline is expected to be late June or early July, and partnership details would be announced then.

Shell will consider Iraq's security situation and employee safety before deciding on a timeline for oil field development, van der Veer said.

Shell is trying to expand in China's fast-growing market and signed a cooperation agreement with state-owned China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) in 2007.

Van der Veer said he was visiting Beijing to check on studies being done on areas where they might work together. He said they were making progress but declined to give details.

China is the world's second-largest oil consumer after the US, and its state-owned suppliers have signed a multibillion-dollar flurry of deals to import petroleum and develop sources abroad.

China is a key part of Shell's long-term strategy to expand in faster-growing markets outside the West, said Peter Voser, its chief financial officer. He said other target markets include India, Indonesia and Turkey.

Voser said those plans would not be affected by the global economic slump.

"I think China has a lot to offer in terms of future demand and so it is very interesting as a country to invest in," he said. "China is a key part of the long-term strategy of the Royal Dutch Shell Group, and that's not going to change."

Shell and CNPC jointly operate the Changbei gas field in China's northwest and Shell reportedly is bidding for a contract on a gas field in the southwest. It signed a 20-year deal with CNPC unit PetroChina in November to import natural gas.

In Iraq, CNPC signed a 20-billion-yuan deal to develop the Ahdab oil field in the country's south.

(AP)

Group wants to erase 'Zhongnanhai' cigarette brand

By Jin Zhu

"Zhongnanhai," the central leadership compound, should no longer be permitted as a cigarette brand, an anti-tobacco group told trademark authorities in a petition submitted Wednesday.

"Using the name of a sacred place as a cigarette brand is an action that misleads consumers. Taking 'Zhongnanhai' as an example, buyers would see it as a product of high quality as they believe the brand is endorsed by the central government," Wu Yiqun, deputy director of the Research Center for Health Development think tank, said.

Besides that, information printed on Zhongnanhai packs is also misleading, Wu said. "The manufacturers are trying to convince smokers that low-tar cigarettes will do less harm to their health, and that part of the profit from each pack will be donated to Project Hope," she said, referring to a popular charity program that supports drop-outs in China. "All its actions are geared toward marketing, instead of sharing in social responsibilities."

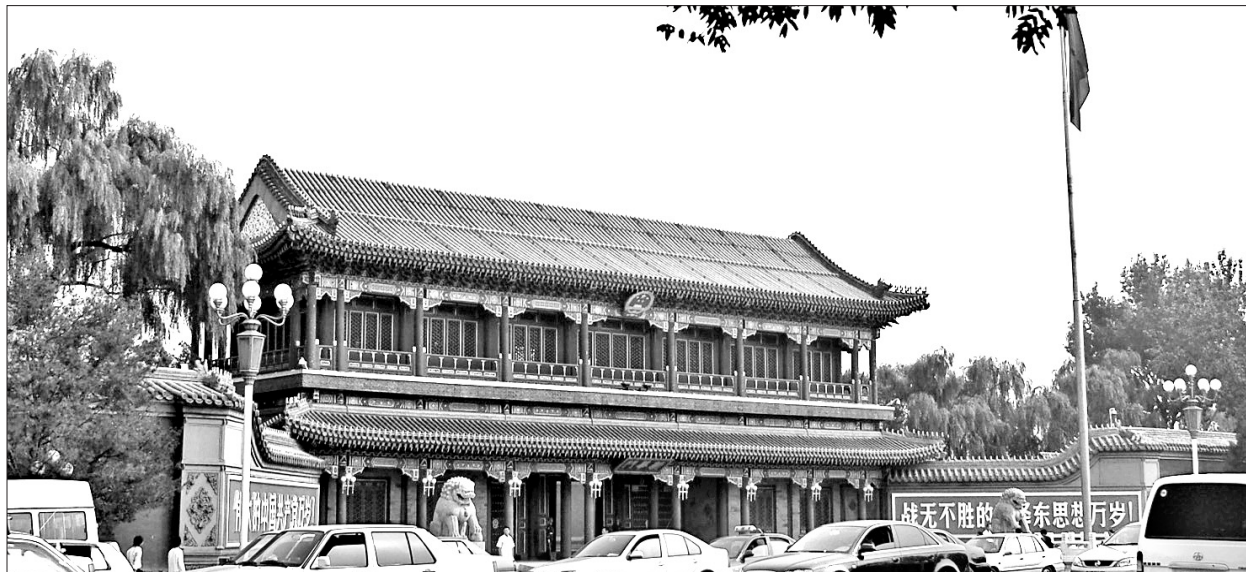
According to Article 10 of the Trademark Law revised in 2001, the name of a central government office location cannot be used in commercial brands, Huang Jinrong, a Beijing-based lawyer, said.

But when Zhongnanhai's manufacturer, the Beijing Tobacco Factory, applied to renew the brand name in 2006, the Beijing Trademark Bureau extended its permit until 2017.

The tobacco factory maintains they have complied with the law. "The trademark has been registered legally. There is no reason for it to be cancelled," Zhao Wenxia, a trademark manager at Beijing Tobacco, said.

"If brands such as Zhongnanhai and Chungwa were removed, this will result in losses of hundreds of millions of yuan to businesses. Moreover, some foreign cigarette producers can register the brands, then enter the domestic market," he said.

The trademark bureau said the petition falls under "trademark disputes" and that given its huge volume of such cases, it will take time for the authority to reach a decision.



Zhongnanhai houses the offices of the central government leaders.



The "Zhongnanhai" brand has a long history and is famous throughout the country.

CFP Photos

Comment

A misleading brand

It isn't appropriate to use Zhongnanhai and Chungwa as cigarette brands since they could mislead the world into thinking the Chinese government recommends tobacco products to the public. Besides that, the warnings on the packs that smoking is harmful to one's health are not explicit. Manufacturers have the responsibility to tell consumers straight that smoking can lead to 14 types of diseases, including cancer.

If the trademark bureau does not cancel Zhongnanhai as a brand, then the revised Trademark Law is totally meaningless.

— Shen Mingrong, law professor at Capital University of Economics and Business

Trademark irrelevant to anti-smoking campaign

Getting rid of a famous brand is not the way to make the public give up smoking. A trademark is only a symbol or a name without any other meaning.

Some big cigarette brands have been registered legally and deserve the reputation earned after years in the industry. There is nothing misleading or deceitful at all about this, whereas canceling their brand is unfair to the enterprises involved.

— Yang Rongjin, Beijing resident

The law is not enough to judge the issue

Many of my friends, no matter whether they are smokers or not, including myself, think Zhongnanhai is not suitable as a name of a tobacco product.

If we follow the Trademark Law, however, many famous Chinese brands will disappear, like Great Wall wine and Panda cigarettes. They have a great reputation among consumers, so in this case, it is not simply making a decision based on the law.

On top of this, there are six products bearing the Zhongnanhai brand. The think tank's recommendation to remove only one of them reflects that it is not professional or it just wants hype.

— Wang Hao, blogger on Hexun.com

BEIJING TODAY

serving the expat community

An English weekly

Expat News

Stories of the city's expats

Community

Building a harmonious international society

Commerce & Consulates

Promoting unity between all peoples

News U can use

Helping each other, progressing together

BEIJING TODAY

Published every Friday, 24 pages
selling at China Post Newsstands
2 Yuan per copy and 104 Yuan for one year subscription
Sending your info(name, delivery address, post code, Tel) by email to get 2 weeks Beijing Today for free
Tel: 010-65902512, 65902626 Email: btsubscription@ynet.com

Editor: Zhao Hongyi Designer: Yang Gen



Cremated remains of the deceased are laid to rest in graves, columbarium slots, scattered at sea and buried underneath trees.

Tug of war between the living and the dead

The municipal government is encouraging citizens to scatter at sea or bury under trees the cremated remains of their relatives in an effort to promote more eco-friendly funerals. But the plan is hampered by a host of problems.

By Zhao Hongyi

Zhang Yexin has been waiting for half a year to execute his 89-year-old father's dying wish: to have his remains scattered at sea. Zhang is among the 300 Beijing residents who have applied for the service and are still waiting.

Supply and demand

In a country with 1.3 billion people, the dead are competing with the living for space. In Beijing alone, which has 17 million residence, more than 250,000 people die every year.

Central and local governments have promoted cremation instead of burial since the 1960s. Today, the capital has three crematoriums serving its eight central districts and one in each of its 10 suburban districts. Ninety percent of the deceased, especially in urban cities, are cremated; the Municipal Bureau of Civil Affairs disburses 5,000 yuan for each cremation.

But how to store the cremated remains has become an increasingly expensive problem. The government built 33 cemeteries that provide graves and columbariums for storing urns. There are also privately owned ones. Supply, however, cannot catch up with the demand.

A grave costs as much as 170,000 yuan; a columbarium slot less than one square meter goes as high as 70,000 yuan. This does not include maintenance fees of thousands of yuan per year.

"This is much higher than the average price of commercial apartments in Beijing!" a commentary on *China Youth Daily* said.

To solve the increasing gap, the city government opened a fixed-priced cemetery ahead of Qingming or Tomb-sweeping Day Festival on April 4, Changqingyuan, for the poor, handicapped and revolutionary martyrs who have died since January 1 this year.

The price of each Changqingyuan slot is 3,000 yuan, including maintenance service for up to 20 years. The local government gives a subsidy of 1,000 yuan for each slot, meaning the family of the deceased need only pay 2,000 yuan. The

Environment protection and profit in the face of "alternative" funerals



Sea scattering and tree planting are considered as more environmentally-friendly funerals and have received support from the government over the past two decades.

CFP Photos

establishment of the cemetery has been warmly received by citizens, and it received 760 inquiries its first day.

Scattering and planting

Meanwhile, the city government is upping its effort to persuade residents to scatter at sea or bury under trees their relatives' cremated remains. The campaign, which began a decade ago, says the practice is more economical and environmentally friendly.

Sea-scattering services were first offered in 1994, at a fixed price of 380 yuan. The Beijing Cemetery Service Center, the city's sole service provider which is partly government-owned, has organized 63 sea-scattering trips. About 5,600 people's ashes were scattered with more than 11,000 taking part in the ceremonies.

This year, the government promised to remove all extra fees from the service to further promote the practice.

"We should solve the problem between the dead and the living with an eye on the long-term," Jiang Xiaobo, secretary of the Beijing Cemetery Association, said. "It's a

serious issue in a populous country like China, as we are realizing the importance of the environment."

The association also encourages people to plant trees in designated areas and bury their relatives there. "We aim to provide people with more options," Jiang said. "These are the ways we'll have to go."

Difficulties of going to sea

But Zhang is still waiting for the Beijing Cemetery Service Center to organize the ceremony.

After continuous queries, Wang Xiaoquan, the manager, said they are still waiting for the municipal government to implement rules on subsidies.

"Profit is a reason behind the lack of interest of the service provider," Wang said. "We have very limited profits and customers."

Since Beijing is situated inland, the designated area for sea-scattering is in the Bohai Bay, off the city of Tianjin. "We have to coordinate with various governmental departments in Tianjin each time, which takes time and energy," Wang said.

The weather is another reason for the delay. Spring and autumn

are the best seasons for sea-scattering. "We have to wait till autumn now," Wang said.

Problems with tree planting

Burying cremated remains under trees is another option. Cost ranges from 3,000 to 8,000 yuan, depending on the size of the site and gravestone chosen.

Unlike sea-scattering, this type of funeral does not receive any subsidy from the government. Since service providers are facing a shrinking profit margin, they prefer that people opt for a tomb or a cemetery slot.

"We cancelled the service half a year ago," Badaling Cemetery's service director, who only gave his surname Mi, said. "Because we can hardly recruit staff to take care of the forests."

Forests as burial sites also invite danger. The traditional burning of paper offerings to the dead each Qingming Festival could easily lead to fires.

Another member of the Beijing Cemetery Association, Xie Guoliang, criticized cemeteries offering this type of service. "They need to adopt better management and

implement regulations in a more efficient way," he said.

Promulgate, advocate and insist

Xie admits, however, that the "alternative" funerals are catching on. During Qingming Festival early this month, sea-scattering ceremonies and tree-planting activities were held throughout the country.

"As we further open up, I believe more and more people will accept these options," he said.

Some provinces have taken further encouraging steps. In Shanghai, a large marble memorial wall has been installed in a park on which names of the dead are engraved for people to pay their respects. Pudong, where the park is located, gives the family of the deceased a subsidy of 5,000 yuan.

The Jiangsu provincial government promised to publish free obituaries for people whose remains are scattered or buried under trees.

Xie believes the obstacles facing these economical and eco-friendly funerals are temporary. In the longer term, "the number of people willing to accept these new methods will increase."

300 Guangdong youngsters willing victims of human trafficking

By Zheng Lu

A duo trafficking teenagers to Costa Rica using fake visas has been uncovered by the Beijing and Guangdong police and the suspects have been arrested.

Last December, the Beijing Public Security Bureau (PSB) received a note from the Costa Rican Embassy saying it had received nearly 300 visa applications, most of which were submitted by minors. All applicants were from the city of Enping, Guangdong Province.

The youngsters cited the same reason for wanting to travel to the Central American country: to be reunited with their parents who are living there. The Costa Rican embassy suspected that the applicants' documents were forged.

Moreover, the purpose of travel sounded suspicious since China and Costa Rica's diplomatic ties were only a year old.

Such large-scale visa applications by young people from the same locality were rare, so the PSB immediately sent investigators to Enping. The inquiry revealed that none of the applicants' parents were abroad.

After proving that the documents handed to the embassy were fake, the police tracked down the brains behind the operation. The two were finally caught by the end of March in possession of dozens of documents to apply for Costa Rican visas.

It was learned they have already sent more than 30 teens to Costa Rica. The young peo-

ple's plight and their location are unknown. One of the suspects said he earned 1,000 yuan for each application he handled.

"It is not possible for the children to have gotten permanent jobs, and they probably don't have a permanent home there. Thus, their health and safety cannot be guaranteed," a PSB official said.

In the latest batch of applicants, the youngest was nine years old, while most of them were teenagers younger than 18.

The older applicants and their parents, who were also interrogated, said the real reason they wanted to fly to Costa Rica was to find work. "I wanted to send my son there to work and earn money," one parent said.

"I thought I could learn and work there," a teen applicant said.

"If you can earn 500 yuan a month in China, you can earn US \$500 (3,400 yuan) abroad," goes a line that has spread among the residents of Enping. Many who long for a better life were easily seduced by the suspects' picture of a more comfortable life in Costa Rica. Some applicants were even suspected of planning to stow away to the US once they got to Costa Rica.

The two suspects are currently under police custody.

Citizens who want to live and study abroad should go through legal agencies for assistance, the PSB said, adding that people who obtain visas unlawfully cannot be protected by the law.

France begins construction of new Beijing embassy

By Han Manman

The French government began construction in Beijing last week of what is to be its largest embassy. According to international law firm Gide Loyrette Nouel (GLN), an advisor to the project, the embassy will form part of a new campus that will concentrate all French diplomatic services in Beijing in a single location by 2010.

The €25-million (225 million yuan) complex, designed by French architect Alain Sarfati, will house the largest French embassy, GLN said.

The new embassy building, which will have a capacity of 300 people, will combine modern French design and traditional Chinese elements, an embassy official said. The complex will include a round theater that can seat 120 people. Construction materials will be purchased in China and construction work will be done by local workers.

"In this important moment in Sino-French relations, this spectacular new embassy complex will be the bridge that connects the two countries. It will be also a platform that promises a bright future for the relationship between the two countries," said former French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin at last Thursday's ground-breaking ceremony.

Sarfati, who has created numerous major public projects including the National Theater in Toulouse, France, arouses strong reactions through his designs.

"Architecture is something public: it can be seen, it is practiced and widely shared," Sarfati said. He said his work always strives to emphasize the relationship between a city and a building's architecture.

He said the new embassy is a cross between tradition and modernity, like a mysterious construction wrapped in gilded aluminum. Rigor, imagination, lightness and solidity are its architectural components, he added.

The complex is being built on two hectares of land in a new diplomatic zone in Chaoyang District, near the new US embassy and the Israeli embassy. It is expected to open in 2011.

Greece donates statue to Beijing museum

By Han Manman

The Greek Ministry of Culture has donated a replica of an ancient marble statue to a Beijing museum slated to open in October.

The All-China Women's Federation (ACWF), sponsor of the Museum of Chinese Women and Children, the country's only museum dedicated to the welfare of women and children, received the statue from the Greek Embassy at a ceremony Tuesday.

The Greek Ministry of Culture chose the statue of Pephophoros, also called Peplos Kore, one of the finest korai dedicated to the goddess Athena, to underline one of the museum's aims of promoting friendship and cooperation among nations, the Greek Ambassador Theodoros Georgakelos said.

The statue is clothed in a Doric peplos, a simple unpleated garment, hence her "Pephophoros." The young woman, whose short peplos is fastened over both shoulders, has long hair and eye lids and lips painted red. The original statue is housed in the Acropolis Museum in Athens, Greece. "This work, circa 525 BC, must have come from the chisel of a great



Greek Ambassador Theodoros Georgakelos (left) with the statue "Pephophoros."

Photo provided by Greek Embassy

artist of the era," the Acropolis Museum Web site said, referring to the statue's unknown creator.

Other embassies have also donated cultural relics from their country following an invitation from ACWF, Mu Hong, deputy director-general of the federation's international liaison department, said.

"The statue will be displayed

in the International Friendship Hall of the museum among other statues donated by other countries," Mu said.

The museum, located on Chang'an Avenue, was established to boost gender equality and children's development in the country.

Mu said the museum will have exhibition halls depicting the roles and history of Chi-

nese women and children. The exhibits on women will show their past and present living conditions, social status, customs and contributions to society. Those on children will include interactive displays, and provide a space for study and play.

Mu said the museum is scheduled to open by October 1, the National Day.



Pansy Wong

New Zealand's first Asian minister welcomes more Chinese students

By Sima Hao

New Zealand prime minister John Key together with the country's first Asian minister visited Beijing University on Wednesday to invite more Chinese nationals to study in the country.

Pansy Wong, whose Chinese name is Huang Xu Yufang, is New Zealand's first Asian minister in charge of the ethnic affairs and women's affairs portfolios.

She was born in Shanghai

and raised in Hong Kong. In 1974, she and her family emigrated to New Zealand, where she majored in commerce at the University of Canterbury.

During her freshman year in university, Wong said she felt she was lagging behind her classmates. New Zealand's university education system encouraged students to think independently and actively participate in school - things which were new to her. But

Wong was able to adjust during her sophomore year after she understood the essence of independent thinking.

Wong, who is proud to be ethnic Chinese, said she was determined to prove her abilities in her new home country. She also worked hard to repay her adoptive country and prove that it was indeed a society in which one can advance based on merit.

Wong was elected to Parlia-

ment in 1996, becoming New Zealand's first Asian MP. She won her new seat of Botany in the 2008 election, and was subsequently chosen as Minister for Ethnic Affairs and Minister of Women's Affairs.

In a speech at Beijing University on Wednesday, Wong said she hoped her experience would inspire more Chinese students to study in New Zealand and realize their potential.

Showdown of international student bands at Hard Rock



GASP from The German School winning the Rock of The Bands contest.

Photo by Wang Yu

By Wang Yu

Beijing's Hard Rock Cafe, a brand that has become a center for rock music, was again filled with blazing guitar sounds, drum rolls and screams on Wednesday.

But that time, professional musicians were replaced by student rockers from seven international schools in the city. It was the third year of the annual Rock of the Bands event organized by the Western Academy of Beijing (WAB). Mark Armstrong, the event's coordinator and a music teacher at WAB, is also the force behind WAB Rocks, one of the most well-known concert series among Beijing's international schools.

Nine Lives, Shanti, GASP, No Idea – local rock fans may not know these groups, but they have already made a name for themselves in the international

schools circle.

The seven bands at Hard Rock Cafe were playing it out at the competition's championship round. Most of the groups played young and energetic rock, punk and metal music.

Shanti, a band from WAB which has played in such popular nightspots as Yugongyishan, wowed the audience and judges with its lead singer's vocals.

"Did you hear her voice? That was beautiful, and their performance was also remarkable," said Desmond McGarry, one of the five judges and the lead vocalist of the blues band Black Cat Bone.

Beijing BISS International School's No Way Back turned up the venue's volume to maximum level with its Northern European metal music.

Though the group lacked finesse, its type of music rarely fails to set the crowd

on fire. Students surrounding the stage soon began moshing and screamed with the heavy-rhythm guitar sounds. The noise reached its highest level when the last band, GASP, from the German School got up on stage.

Maggie Who, last year's winner from the International School of Beijing which is the most experienced of all contestants, gave the final performance. People in the audience familiar with the band's music, did not stop jumping around and moshing while it was playing.

The judges named GASP the Best Band, while the audience chose Shanti as Best Singer and Best Song. "I've taken part in this event as a judge since it was started, and the bands have gotten better and better each year," McGarry said. "The gap between the groups (performance ability) has narrowed considerably."

Art under 10,000 yuan is back

By He Jianwei

There is something for everyone. This was the message from the curator of Affordable Art Beijing (AAB), established in 2006 to give people the opportunity to own contemporary art pieces and to give young artists a platform to display their talent.

Art lovers should mark their calendars; the fourth AAB exhibit will be held in The Orange at Sanlitun's The Village from May 30 to 31.

"All art works are sold for under 10,000 yuan. Some items are sold for just a few hundred yuan, meaning there is really something for everyone, no matter what your budget," Tamsin Roberts, who is also director of Red T Art gallery, said.

"It has been amazing to see this event grow bigger over the last four years," Tom Pattinson, AAB's co-founder, said. "Each year we are surprised and impressed by the number of people that join this wonderful event whether to buy art or simply to enjoy the atmosphere."

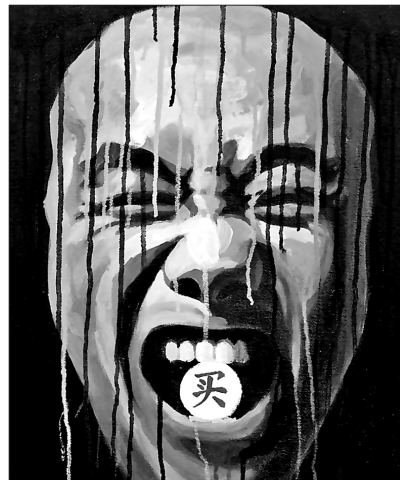
This year, 1,000 works by around 250 artists will be sold, twice as many as last year. Of the 500 pieces up for grabs in 2008, 70 percent were sold.

Some of the artists who have participated in AAB have since made a name for themselves in the local art market. For instance, a piece by Yin Kun that sold in 2006 at US \$1,000 (6,800 yuan) is now valued at US \$30,000.

"AAB is an opportunity to show the public what is up and coming in the market," Roberts said. "It is a unique event and attracts a wide variety of people for the low-risk investment and the enjoyment it offers," she said.

The show is also an excellent platform for young and emerging artists to show their talent, and to receive feedback regarding their works. "We spend a lot of time visiting hundreds of young artists to find the best up and coming talent," Roberts said.

AAB was a revolutionary concept in China in 2006, when the art market was closed off to many art lovers who could not



"Ha Buy," one of the AAB art works

Photo provided by AAB

afford pricey works.

As the market got hotter and prices rapidly increased, it became even more limited to wealthy investors and art collectors.

Event

INSPIRED Time

Management Workshop

If you feel that you keep diverting time, energy and resources away from the pursuit of your most important goals, you can learn practical strategies that will help you devote more time to the things that are truly important, and avoid interruptions and distractions that hijack your valuable time.

This workshop will teach time management approaches and practical tools in meaningful, productive and energizing ways. This will enable you to make measurable steps towards your goals on a daily basis.

Where: Beijing Landmark Hotel, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District.

When: April 17, 9 am

Tel: 13621132201

Cost: 950 yuan (includes workshop materials and light lunch)

Quiksilver "Take a Break" Photo Contest

Quiksilver, the world's leading board sports-inspired apparel brand, opened this year's surfing season with the international surfing contest "The Quiksilver Pro-Gold Coast."

To celebrate the event, the company has launched the "Take a Break" photo contest. From now until April 19, any purchase at Quiksilver/ROXY stores (excluding outlets) will entitle shoppers to a "promotion code."

All that participants need to do is snap a photo that fits the theme "Take a Break" and send the picture to Quiksilver along with a caption. Winners will get a five-day-three-night trip for two to surfers' paradise Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia. Send all photos, in jpeg or pdf format, to Quiksilver's email address, along with the participant's full name, ID number and promotion code. Deadline for photo submissions is April 27.

Where: All Quiksilver/ROXY Stores

When: Promotion ends April 19

Tel: 6581 1660

Email:

quiksilvershmk@gmail.com

Language Exchange Party

Are you looking for a language exchange partner? This party might point you in the right direction: Two hours of conversations in Chinese or English with people who have similar interests. The event is free, but participants have to buy their own drinks. Only 50 participants can come, so email organizers right away for an application form.

Where: Ireland Bar, Harbor City Building (opposite the Australian Embassy), 28 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: April 25, 3-5 pm

Tel: 6416 0031

Email: mandarinncastle@gmail.com or py6089@163.com

Cost: Free

Furniture exhibition

Materials made from Formica are usually seen in kitchens, laboratories and fast-food restaurant have been utilized by 14 Chinese architects and artists to create distinctive space, furniture and articles.

Where: Beijing Center for the Arts, 23 Qianmen Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until April 29

Tel: 6559 8008-8010

Cost: Free

(By Venus Lee)

Rental cost in CBD continues to fall

By Annie Wei

In the local housing market, rentals have become less popular than second-hand purchases. And it is the middle and high-end apartments taking the brunt of it.

According to Ruidahang real estate firm, the rental cost of middle and high-end apartments in the Central Business District (CBD) has fallen since the end of last year. The drop is between 500 to 2,000 yuan a month.

At Palm Springs executive apartments in Chaoyang Park, the average monthly rent of a two-bedroom apartment has fallen from 12,000 to 10,000 yuan. A 112-square-meter apartment at Sunshine 100 in Guomao has decreased from 7,500 to 6,000 yuan.

Sino-Zhongyuan real estate said that a 110-square-meter apartment at Fulicheng in Shuangjing has gone as low as 5,800 yuan a month from the previous 6,700. A 123-square-meter duplex at Hopson International Park near Guomao has fallen to 6,000 yuan from 7,500 yuan per month.

Savills, an international real estate ser-



Beijing's Central Business District

CFP Photo

vice provider, provided insights to the trend in its 2009 expatriate housing budget report for China. The report, based on a survey of 400 multinational companies in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, said some firms are reviewing their employees' housing budgets and are carrying out new policies to encourage cheaper housing. It said 56 percent of the respondents

in Beijing are considering cutting their budget for employee housing.

Beijing Youth Daily reported last Thursday that due to financial constraints, tenants are now looking for less expensive options that provide the same comfort. Some people are choosing to buy property, which provides longer term stability but less mobility.

Guide to parks for viewing spring blossoms



Yuyuantan Park in western Beijing is one of the most popular parks in springtime.

CFP Photo

By Venus Lee

With the onset of the cherry blossom season, residents and tourists alike have been flocking to parks and scenic spots to view the blossoms. Below is a list of places that offer the best view of flowering trees.

Nineteen suburban parks will offer free admission beginning May 1, while 14 new parks will open that day, according to the Municipal Gardens Green Bureau.

Parks offering free entry on Labor Day include Dongfeng Park, Jintian Suburban Park, Hongbo Park and Taiyanggong Sports and Leisure Park.

Cherry blossoms

Yuyuantan Park

Cost: 3 yuan

How to get there: Take bus 114, 300 or 717 to Yuyuantan Gongyuan

China rose

Taoranting

Cost: 2 yuan

How to get there: Take bus 40, 59, 66, 102 or 122 to Taoranting

Cloves

Jietai Temple

Cost: 10 yuan

How to get there: Take luyou or Travel Bus 7 from Qianmen to the stop Jietai temple. Alternatively, take Subway Line 1 to Pingguoyuan station, then take bus 931 to the destination

Fayuan Temple

Cost: 5 yuan

How to get there: Take bus 57, 105, 109 or 743, then get off at Niujie Nankou. The temple is a few minutes away on foot

Flowering crabapples

Forbidden City's Imperial Garden

Cost: 20 yuan

How to get there: Take bus 1, 4 or 120 and get off at Tian'anmen Square

Yuandadu Park

Cost: Free

How to get there: Take bus 2 or 819, then get off at Donghuamen. The park is a few minutes away on foot.

Soong Ching Ling's Residence

Cost: 5 yuan

How to get there: Take bus 13, 103 or 810 and get off at Shichahai

Magnolias

The Summer Palace

Cost: 20 yuan

How to get there: Take bus 209, 330, 331, 332, 346, 716 or 717 to Yiheyuan

Tanzhe Temple

Cost: 10 yuan

How to get there: Take Subway Line 1 to Pingguoyuan station, then take bus 931 to reach the temple

Peach Blossoms

Beijing Botanical Gardens

Cost: 10 yuan

How to get there: Take bus 318, 714 or 904 to Beijing Zhiwuyuan

Pinggu Liujiexiang

Cost: 15-40 yuan, depending on the site

How to get there: Take Bus 918 from Dongzhimen stop, then transfer to Mini-bus 6 at Guanzhuang Lukou

Pear Blossoms

Wanmu Liyuan

Cost: 10 yuan

How to get there: Take bus 934 or 937 and get off at Panggezhuang

Peonies

Jingshan Park

Cost: 5 yuan

How to get there: Take bus 5, 111 or 810 to Jingshan Gongyuan

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyang@ynet.com

My cat needs to be groomed and its nails need clipping. Is there any place near the Workers Stadium you can recommend?

The International Center for Veterinary Services provides grooming services for cats and dogs. The staff are all licensed medical professionals and trained veterinary technicians. If the cat easily gets agitated and cannot be handled by just anyone, best to bring it to professionals. International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS) Tel: 8456 1939-1941 Web site: icvsasia.com

Where can I find a fruit and vegetable market, preferably one that also sells tofu, near Gulou Da Jie?

There is a rather large indoor fruit and vegetable market just across the little canal north of Gulou Bridge. It is near the Gulou stop on Subway Line 2, on the east side of Jiugulou Wai Dajie. Take note that it's easy to miss because it is indoors. Another smaller indoor market is 150 meters north of the Bell Tower, Zhonglou, in Doufuchi Hutong. A really big market can be found southwest of the Deshengmen Nei Dajie and Xinjiekou Dong Jie intersection.

Where can I buy good quality audio recording equipment? I'm specifically looking for a Beyer M-58 omnidirectional microphone.

There is one or two audio stalls in the big electronics market on Nuren Jie or Lady Street near the Lufthansa Centre. There are also similar shops in Zhongguancun's computer markets.

I'm going to study at the China Agriculture University (CAU) for half a year and I'm looking for a room or a reasonably priced studio. What's an ideal to live that's also near the subway and shops?

You might want to consider a place around the Wudaokou subway station. It is practically the center of the university scene and 40 minutes away from Sanlitun by subway. Contact real estate agents in the area to find out your housing options.

I live in Chaoyang District and am looking for someone who can make a wedding dress based on a picture. Below are a few wedding dress makers that can replicate a design in a photograph.

Where: Room 2304, Building 62, Yuanyang Tiaodi (northeast corner of Sihuiqiao), Chaoyang District

Tel: 8586 1547

Where: 1-A-802 Jingang Guoji, 19 Xidawang Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8795 4516

(By Sima Hao)



0.1mg Series



Spring Fatigue Series No 5



Spring Fatigue Series No 10



Only Child Series No 9

Blue and White

• Isolated

Nawei's Solo Exhibition

Where: New Age Gallery, D09 Area,
798 Zhong Er Lu, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu,
Chaoyang District

When: Until May 9, daily except
Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Tel: 5978 9282

Shattering co

Post-80's artist Na Wei talks one-

Na is lanky and solemn. He looks like he is afflicted by the same melancholy, pensiveness and rebelliousness as the characters he paints.

Last Sunday, at the meeting room in New Age Gallery, Na talked about only-child identity and his paintings.

"Viewers treat art like a story. They think an artist who creates sorrow must have had such an experience," Na said, denying a childhood as painful as his characters'.

The blue and white stripes of hospital dress immediately signal someone as ill, either physically or mentally. Society confines them to an area where they can be protected, treated or forgotten.

Na embraces these stripes and uses them to symbolize a child's isolation from reality. During childhood, they are coddled like animals on a reserve, as shown in his Spring Fatigue Series and Only Child Series.

In Spring Fatigue, he depicts the one-child generation. A young man in Spring Fatigue Series No 1 plays on a merry-go-round, trapped in fantasy and play, while clad in hospital stripes.

Another young man in Spring Fatigue Series No 9 is on a horse too weak to ride. The rider recoils in horror, helpless when confronted with the "real horse" of complex social reality.

Na talks freely about his childhood. Like all his peers', his days were made of sheer hard school work. One day, more than 20 years later, he was dropped into the world.

He was born in 1982 and will graduate this summer with a master's in fine arts from Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts' oil painting department in Shenyang, Liaoning Province.

He first took up the brush at age four or five years old, when his parents sent him to learn painting. He never put it down until he finished primary school.

"Painting was a painful experience – I never found happiness in it. I didn't know why I was forced to paint the cup and the apple again and again. I seldom had time to play," he says.

His first three years in high school were his "darkest" days. He did not draw anymore, and became as rebellious as other students his age.

"I always kept silent in my adolescence. You can't imagine how much of an introvert I was. I didn't have any friends, and wouldn't even talk to my parents," he says, hinting that he is an extrovert now.

His father wanted him to study Chinese literature at Peking University. But during his last three years of high school his grades fell so hard that he would never get in: He picked up his brush once more.

"My art teacher taught me the fun of drawing. I could paint freely," he says.

Although he is part of the much maligned post-80's generation, he rejects having his work pigeonholed into the same category as his peers'. "It is dangerous for an artist to be labeled. It is narrow-minded to split them up by generation. I don't see how my generation is different from the last one," he says.

Na's generation benefited from a prolonged economic boom, and is generally considered more individualistic and imaginative. He says people in his generation were given no recognition by the world. They have become keen innovators, but they are quick to anger and blunt.

"I'm not interested in conventional life. I do need to be more tolerant, although I face serious challenges and am sometimes helpless," he says.

In his works, he deliberately juxtaposes two completely opposite objects, like a gun and an ice cream cone, or two objects identical only in form.

The artist questions himself and destroys the observer's knowledge again and again in his works. "Viewers cannot find answers to the questions in my work. It's like coming up to me and finding out I have already left," he says.

Although he denies his experience influenced his works, his concept of art is likely rooted in the diversified cultural background in which he grew up.

"When we were in primary school, there was no tuition at university. When we went to university, there was no tuition in primary school. When we were not old enough to find jobs, they were assigned. When we were able to work, it took great effort to find a job that earned only enough to feed us," Na says.

Like his peers, he is defensive, which results in an attitude that is capricious, illusory and endlessly variable, though beneath that he is still sentimental.

Every event and every feeling he experiences is kept in his memory, and is taken out and replayed from time to time. He is also cautious, sensitive to change and ready to react.

In Na's works, viewers can see what his generation wants, how it experiences life and where it fits into the world.

Still looking for answers? "Here are your answers: pluralist or uniform, joyous or painful. Pick one, because none of them matter," he says.

Na embraces stripes and uses them to symbolize a child's isolation from reality.

Convention

child identity, painting

s these
es
olize a
on from

“It is dangerous for an artist to be labeled. It is narrow minded to split them up by generation. I don't see how my generation is different from the last one.”

“I'm not interested in conventional life. I do need to be more tolerant, although I face serious challenges and am sometimes helpless.”

By He Jianwei

Many Chinese artists paint their faces into each piece, but Na Wei's paintings are odd in that the characters always hide their face. “Once a viewer sees the face (and its expression), he will have an unchangeable impression of the painting,” Na says.

As an artist of the one-child generation, Na challenges established thinking. Blue and white stripes are his distinctive personal media to represent his generation. On a two-square-meter canvas, viewers can see the conflicts important to his generation.

The canvas is a striking window into the artist's inner world.



Na Wei



Spring Fatigue Series No 2

Photos provided by New Age Gallery

Soldier-turned musician's quest to save the children

By Charles Zhu

Emmanuel Jal describes a sad but sentimental childhood in war-torn Africa in *War Child* (262pp, St. Martin's Press, US \$24.95) with co-writer Megan Lloyd Davies. While the first years of his life in Sudan were peaceful, those days are so distant they have been forgotten.

Jal was born in a village in southern Sudan and was a boy when the civil war began. He witnessed the beatings of his uncle and the rape of his aunt by northern forces. In the mid-1980's, Jal separated permanently from his mother at age seven and decided to join thousands of children who traveled to Ethiopia to learn to fight. "I didn't have a childhood. For five years as a fighting boy, what was in my heart was to kill," he says.

Several years later, Jal was forced back into Sudan by the fighting and joined the battle at Juba, a small town. "Many kids there were so bitter, they wanted to

know what happened to them. And we all wanted revenge."

At one point, he and some others fled the battle. Three months later they arrived in Waat, where Jal met Emma McCune, a British aid worker. McCune thought that he should study instead of fight. She adopted him and smuggled him to Kenya and had him attend school in Nairobi.

In Kenya, he started singing to ease the pain of his childhood. He took singing tours, during which he raised money for refugees. His first song, "All We Need Is Jesus," was a hit in Kenya and the UK.

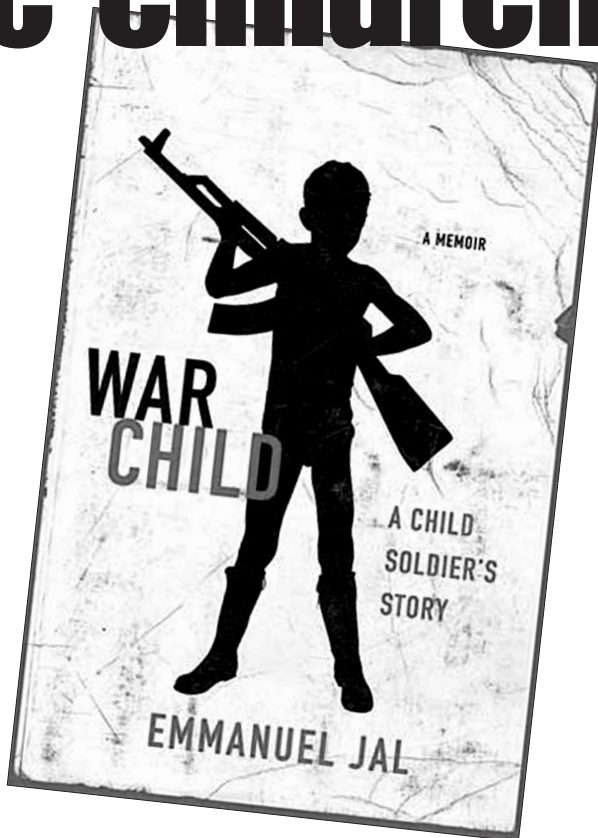
Through his music, Jal advocates the unity of people to overcome ethnic and religious division, a new goal of his life. He found hip-hop the best way to convey his ideas of ethnic peace and political change. He produced his first album, *Gua*, which means "good" in the local language of Nuer and "power" in Sudanese Arabic. It is a mix of rap in Arabic, English,

Kiswahili, Dinka and Nuer. His lyrics, purely African in flavor, manifest the ardent wishes of the Sudanese people for a peaceful homeland.

His second single, "War Child," mixes rap with soul in an original way. He narrates in song the pain life inflicted on him. His powerful words convey the message of what he has so painfully been through. His unique mixture of hip-hop with local African beats made him a rising star in the music world.

Jal, who had no childhood of his own, works hard to protect the childhood of others. "Music is powerful. It is the only thing that can speak into your mind, your heart and your soul without your permission," he says. Through his heartfelt lyrics, he brings into focus the themes of his songs for peace in Sudan and the message that children should by no means be involved in wars.

Jal writes, "I'm still a soldier, fighting with my pen and paper, for peace till the day I cease."



The price of reform: royal blood

By Zhao Hongyi

How should people deal with their corrupt rulers? A Chinese parable tells one way:

One day, a student asked Confucius what people should do to the tyrannical kings, such as Jie and Zhou Wang, the last kings of Xia and Shang dynasties over 5,000 years ago.

This was an important question at the time, 2,400 years ago, during Confucius's day, when China was split into seven warring kingdoms.

Confucius answered, "A king who commits too many crimes, or who is a tyrant, will no longer be a king. Instead, he is a criminal everyone can condemn and kill."

The story played out again in England during the early 1600s when Charles I abused his people, drafting a tenth of the population into wars against neighbors and torturing his prisoners.

His tyrannical policies forced many Britons to the New Continent, which would later become the US and Canada. It also led to a revolution by the Parliament under Oliver Cromwell, who formed the Parliamentary Army and defeated the King's army and captured Charles I in 1648.

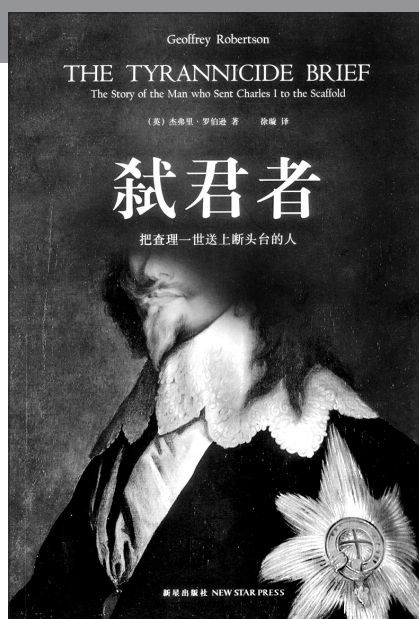
When the king was brought back to London, most of the judges and lawyers fled to the countryside, afraid to be involved in the event. How to deal with the king was a problem, because no one could find a law that could be used to charge Charles I: he was the king, and the king was law (Rex is lex).

A young lawyer named John Cooke was selected to prosecute the king. He decided tyranny was a crime, and in 1649 they beheaded the king.

Death penalty for a king changed English history. The parliament became the de facto owner of sovereignty and ruler during the short Cromwellian republic, also called the English Commonwealth.

But it didn't last long.

After Cromwell died in 1658, Charles II was



invited back to England and was crowned king of England and Ireland in 1661, an event called The Restoration. And John Cooke was jailed and hanged in 1660.

That's what Geoffrey Robertson describes in *The Tyrannicide Brief: The Story of The Man Who Sent Charles I to The Scaffold* (398pp, New Star Publishing House, 39.80 yuan). He reveals many minor historical details, praises the brave lawyers and condemned the men led by Charles II and his father.

These events had a profound impact on British political structure, which remains a constitutional monarchy, or parliamentary democracy, rather than a republic or dictatorship.

Robertson was born in Australia and lived in London 20 years. He is one of the legal advisors of the British royal family and a distinguished human rights defender.

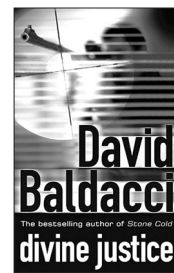
Robertson is the author of many other books and articles, including the famous *Crimes Against Humanity*, *The Justice Game* and *Media Law*.

Pan Macmillan Asia book listing

Pan Macmillan Asia recommends the following upcoming books to *Beijing Today* readers. Find them at the Bookworm, Chaterhouse or Beijing Foreign Language Bookstore starting next month.

Divine Justice

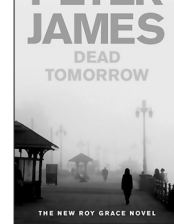
By David Baldacci, 400pp, Pan Macmillan, £6.99



Known by his alias, "Oliver Stone," John Carr is the most wanted man in America. With two pulls of the trigger, the men who hid the truth of his past and kept him in the shadows were finally silenced. But Stone's freedom has come at a steep price; the assassinations he carried out prompted the highest levels of the US Government to unleash a massive manhunt. Joe Knox is leading the charge, but his superiors aren't telling him everything there is to know about his quarry – and their hidden agendas are just as dangerous as the killer he's trying to catch.

Dead Tomorrow

By Peter James, 500pp, Pan Macmillan, £10.99



The body of a teenager dredged from the seabed off the coast of Sussex is found to be missing its vital organs.

Soon two more young bodies are found ... Caitlin Beckett, a 15-year-old in Brighton, will die if she does not receive a liver transplant, urgently. A few days later, with Caitlin deteriorating by the hour, the organ broker tells her mother she has found a perfect match. Detective Superintendent Roy Grace follows the clues from the bodies and finds himself on the trail of a gang of child traffickers operating in Eastern Europe. Soon Grace and his team will find themselves in a race against time to save the life of a young street kid, while a desperate mother will stop at nothing to save her daughter's life.

Beautiful As Yesterday

By Fan Wu, 368pp, Picador Asia, £10.99



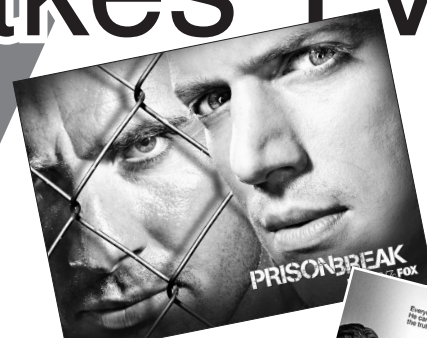
The author, Fan Wu, grew up on a state-run farm in southern China, where her parents were exiled during the Cultural Revolution. Her debut novel, *February Flowers*, has been translated into eight languages, and her short fiction, besides being anthologized and nominated for the Pushcart Prize, has appeared in *Granta*, *The Missouri Review* and *Ploughshares*. This time, it is about the story of three Chinese women from the same family trying to reconcile the past with the present, while torn between two cultures. She shares with readers many unique ways to look for deeper truths and lessons in life's difficult experiences.

(By Zhang Dongya)

Volunteer army makes TV speak Chinese

By Wang Yu

Every week, Internet forums are abuzz with users swapping subtitle files for the latest episodes of foreign TV series. Fansubbing groups, loose organizations of hobbyists who collaborate to create subtitles to new shows, have helped keep the Internet's couch potatoes planted in their seats for the past few years.



Enjoying a foreign TV show used to be a real challenge. One would have to learn the language, find a friend to explain it to him or wait patiently, hoping a domestic media group would pick up the show.

But the Internet, where everything is shared – copyrights be damned – has shattered that barrier. The new popularity of foreign TV series exists only because local fans took on the task of bringing over the shows that the companies would not. Anyone can enjoy the latest shows in Chinese – provided he can figure out how to load the subtitle file.

Call for volunteers

July Lee graduated from college last year and works at a Wuhan-based IT company. Though her office is two hours from her home and the workday is busy, she still makes time for her hobby: translating for PLX, a popular fansubbing group.

"I joined the group as the BBS manager during summer break two years ago. At first, I was just translating from English subtitles, but it takes more than translating to make a subtitle file. I had to learn to proofread and time the subtitles, which I learned later," Lee says.

Timing is the act of watching the show and marking the second where each line is spoken, and how long that line's subtitle should display before disappearing. It is often the first step in translating a newly obtained episode.

A translator must first be proficient in a foreign language, so students majoring in

related subjects make ideal team members. "They can practice their English by doing this. We've even had some teachers ask to join the group," Lee says.

Fansubbing has been around for a while. Liang Liang, a founding member of YYeTs, a TV drama BBS, started fansubbing in 2003. "At that time, no one knew what a fansub group was. I started out translating some of my favorite Japanese anime," Liang says.

But fansubbing didn't go mainstream until 2003, when *Friends* ended its 10-season run on US TV network ABC and caught the attention of Chinese viewers who were swapping clips on F6, the first BBS for US TV dramas and sitcoms.

"I think *Friends* helped draw attention to the early fansubbing scene. The videos everyone shared on F6 had no subtitles, so Chinese viewers couldn't understand them well. We decided to add subtitles on our own to help people understand the story," Liang says.

It didn't take long for more people to join in and subtitle their own favorite shows. "It's like a club, people who join share a passion for these TV dramas," Liang says.

Competition and ego

Making a perfect subtitle file is not as simple as translating a document. The process requires remarkable aptitude with a foreign language and a clear division of work to remain efficient and give others a chance to participate.

"YYeTs' team has about 200 members, and YDY and FR – the other two big

groups – have over 400 people working on the translations of 50 TV dramas. Half the members live outside China," Liang says.

Competition has been fierce since the beginning. The groups focused not only on TV dramas they liked, but on those which were popular. Whenever two groups worked on one series, "the first to finish translating an episode claimed the rights to the whole series. It was like an unwritten agreement," Liang says.

But that popularity bred egos.

Fansubbers of the most popular series were praised by their legions of cyber-fans, leaving the rest of the scene out in the cold. It didn't take long for multiple groups to end up working on the same shows in competition. F6 splintered, and each group went to its own BBS.

However, the split helped each group to find a niche. YDY specializes in crime drama translations, with the aid of a lead translator who graduated from medical school; FR specializes in shows like *House* and *Grey's Anatomy*; and YYeTs now focuses on Sci-Fi shows and historical dramas since a major shift in membership.

Money always a problem

Frequently visited BBSes such as YYeTs face financial problems. "Everyone pitched in money to get started. We came up with 1,400 yuan and used it to buy server space for our Web site," Liang says.

Other groups have considered surviving on advertising revenue.

"A lot of advertisers came to us asking to cooperate, but we rejected their offers.

It goes against the original idea of content sharing," Lee says, though he admits refusing that money has hurt PLX's development.

"Some fans donated money to keep the Web site running, but that wasn't enough," Liang says.

YYeTs found another route: commercial translation and Web development.

"That doesn't mean we are selling our TV drama translations. The commercial side is translating textbooks, commercial captions or doing postproduction in film and television for relevant companies," Liang says.

But while they are full of non-commercial, volunteer spirit, these fansubbing groups are trampling all over international copyright law. "Even though copyright protection is extremely weak in China, all our source material is obtained from overseas pirates who convert these TV programs to a digital format for spreading online," Lee said.

Piracy or not, most companies are reluctant to pounce on fansubbers. Without these volunteer translators, actors like Wentworth Miller, star of *Prison Break*, would be completely unknown in countries that do not air the show.

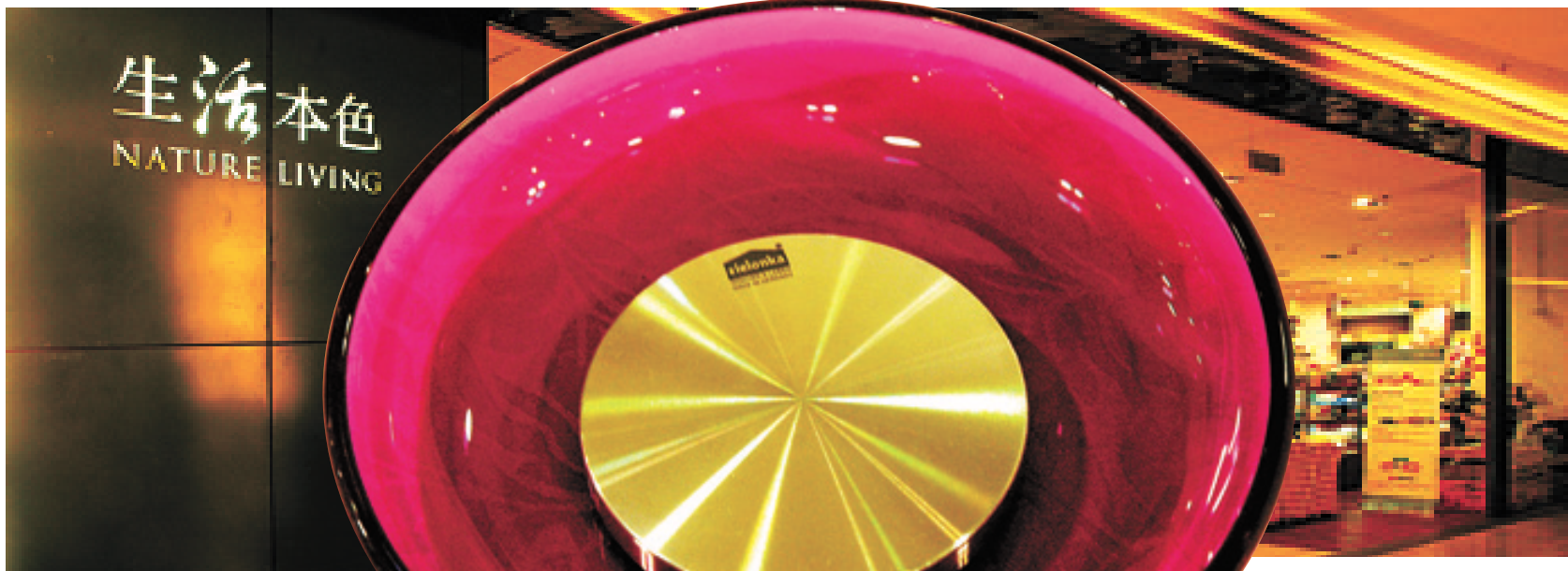
"There are similar fansubbing groups in other countries. We keep in touch with the scene in France all the time and learn from each other," Liang says.

His group's new secondary goal is to help subtitle and spread Chinese programs to other countries. "After all, that's the spirit of sharing," he says.



CFP Photo

A day for smart shoppers



The beauty of going for the new

By Annie Wei

Here is a secret about spas and beauty salons: new ones offer the best quality for the lowest prices. They have to impress in order to build a solid clientele, so they offer cheap yet impressive service.

Ingrid Millet, a newcomer in Beijing, is a big beauty salon chain in Hong Kong with about 30 outlets. The company is named after its founder, French cosmetologist Ingrid Millet, who made the discovery that plant cellular extracts have a rejuvenating effect on the skin. She became the first to use these botanical ingredients in cosmetics to combat premature skin aging.

The brand has since produced a range of beauty creams, like Perle de Caviar essential and Bio Elita for facial care. Its ReGen skin care service, which improves the skin condition, is also not bad.

The brand began expanding on the Chinese mainland market in 2006 and has opened a dozen stores in Guangdong and Sichuan Province. Its shop at The Village is far smaller than those in Hong Kong and Guangzhou, but it retains the company's signature clean and contemporary decor. The place has four treatment rooms in which customers can lie down and enjoy a one-hour facial. After a facial, customers can try on Millet's makeup products. The store has a makeup consultant on hand for customers who need extra help.

The shop is offering a special package until the end of this month: 1,000 yuan for 10 facials. Customers can also choose from a range of other services that cost 180 to 250 yuan. Members get a 12-percent discount on Millet products.

Ingrid Millet

Where: S14 (opposite DHC on Underground Level 1, The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District)

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6413 0183



Ingrid Millet's first store in Beijing

Photo by Zhao Jinwei

Geruchas Killer air freshener

Photos by Huang Xiao

A new option for smart shoppers



Alessi egg holder and spoon



Geruchas Killer breath freshener

By Annie Wei

The opening of Sundan, a home appliance store, at The Village should be exciting news in these penny-pinching times.

The shop is the first in Beijing for the Shenzhen-based company known for affordable but durable products.

The store's home appliance section is probably what draws the most customers. Visitors can freely touch high-tech products like laptops, cell phones and digital cameras; other giant chains sometimes display replicas of the products only.

Compared to other distributors in Zhongguancun, Sundan's digital products are from legit manufacturers with quality assurance.

Sundan has a good selection of water and air purifiers, including Sweden-made Blueair sold exclusively at its stores. The air purifier is available in four models that cost from 2,780 to 6,980 yuan.

Cleansui, a line of water purifiers manufactured by Mitsubishi Bayon, has models priced from 550 to 3,900 yuan. The small 500-yuan purifier is a good match for individuals who

live in a compact apartment, while the 3,900-yuan model is ideal for a family. Sundan offers free installation for each purchase. Take note that the purifier's cartridge needs to be changed every one-and-a-half to two years.

The appliance store also boasts of a household equipment section called Nature Living. It does not look as fancy as Pastry-Magic at Nali Patio, but it offers a wide selection of merchandise at reasonable prices.

Its Alessi wine opener (328-388 yuan) and pepper shaker (388 yuan), for instance, are 50 percent cheaper than in Shin-Kong Plaza and Lufthansa. Its air freshener Geruchas Killer, which is made in Germany and is environmentally friendly and lasts for over 30 years, costs from 500 to 1,200 yuan.

Wine lovers can also find here high quality crystal products priced from 42 to 86 yuan.

Sundan

Where: B1-36, The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6415 3443 (Nature Living); 6415 4732 (Sundan)

Chocolate as art

By Annie Wei

People have been flocking to Comptoir de France's shop on Dongzhimen Wai to see a display of "chocolate art." The exhibition by some French artists showcases chocolate bars engraved with French words and Chinese characters.

The event, called *Recherche du Temps Perdu*, or *Search for Lost Time and Remembrance of Things Past*, is also the title of a popular French novel.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, offers samples of the chocolate art. The chocolate costs from 180 to 3,800 yuan, depending on the size.

Comptoir de France bakery is popular among expats for its breads, pastries, chocolates and ice creams. All its chocolate products, from pralines to truffles, are hand-made using Valrhona chocolate as a base.

The shop also offers coffee to go with cakes like Choc Tartiet (20 yuan per slice), which has a strong chocolate flavor; Petits Fours (6 yuan), which resembles a mini Choc Tartiet; and Rich Choc Truffle (60 yuan). Non-coffee drinkers can go for a mug of hot chocolate.

Comptoir's shop on Dongzhimen is also a great place for outdoor sunbathing on a relaxing weekend. Now is a good season to visit, with trees and flowers blooming all around.

One can find delicious simple lunches there as well. Its 50-yuan lunch includes ham and cheese or turkey sandwich, chef's salad or mix salad, soft drink and large muffin; its 60-yuan lunch has salmon or tuna sandwich, tuna, Greek or Caesar salad, lemon or fruit tartlet and a soft drink. Fifteen yuan for any coffee goes together with these set lunches.

Comptoir de France – East Lake Villa

Where: Club house of East Lake Villa, 35 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 7:30 am – 9:30 pm

Tel: 6461 1525

Comptoir de France – Huamiao

Where: 15-102 Huamiao Compound, 89 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 7 am – 8:30 pm

Tel: 6530 5480



Chocolate art for sale

Photo by Huang Xiao

Embracing spring through tea and champagne dishes

By He Jianwei

Spring seems to be getting shorter each year. It's almost like going to bed in winter and waking up to summer. But spring can be reclaimed – through specially prepared food.

The French, creators of champagne, add the sparkling wine to their dishes to give them a fruity flavor, reminiscent of springtime.

In southern China, green tea does the trick. Below are two restaurants that serve spring on a plate with the help of champagne and tea.



Tofu with XO Sauce (6 yuan)

Photos by Liu Fang



The luxurious Petrus French restaurant



Alaska crabmeat

Photos provided by Petrus

Champagne in everything

Diners will get a whiff of expectation in the air as soon as they enter Petrus. The French restaurant is luxurious. Oil paintings adorn its walls. Seats are covered in blue velvet, fixtures and trimmings are gilded in real gold and its silverware is the famous Christofle brand imported from France.

This spring, Petrus is offering a set three-course lunch menu and five-course dinner menu with all the dishes from appetizer to dessert featuring champagne.

The bubbly wine is named after a region in northeastern France around the cities of Reims and Epernay, from which all “true champagnes” originate.

“Champagne’s chemistry with food produces a fruity flavor. It is suitable for spring dining,” said Patrick Perie, the executive chef, who hails from Provence, France.

Provence’s geographic location influences the local cuisine, which incorporates seafood from its coastline, meat from lambs that graze on its rugged landscape and regional produce such as olives, garlic and grapes that grow in the warm and dry Mediterranean climate.

Perie brings this Mediterranean touch to Petrus’s menu.

One of his newest creations, the appetizer variation of Fine de Claire with champagne, which is included in the set menu, contains four oysters: two that are boiled, one fried and one raw.

The fried oysters are crisp on the outside and tender on the inside. The boiled oysters are flavored with mushroom and cream sauce, while the raw ones are doused in sauce made of tomatoes, onions and champagne.

The champagne gives the shellfish a slightly fruity flavor. A glass of champagne is best paired with a fish or chicken dish.

For the main course, Perie recommends either capon chicken with truffle champagne sauce or crusted salmon with kadifi caviar and champagne cream sauce.

Champagne also goes well with fruits like peach, orange, pear, strawberry or blueberry, Perie said. So for dessert, diners can sip the bubbly with orange and pear available on Petrus’s menu.

Petrus French Restaurant
Where: 90-92 Jinbao Jie, Legendale Hotel Beijing, Dongcheng District
Open: 12-2:30 pm for lunch; 6:30-10:30 pm for dinner

Cost: 198 yuan per person for lunch set; 388 yuan per person for dinner set
Tel: 8511 3388 ext. 8928

Hangzhou comfort food

Waipojia, or Grandma’s, is a typical Chinese restaurant although its English name resembles that of an American diner in town.

The restaurant chain, established in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province where it has 20 branches, serves “comfort” Hangzhou food. The restaurant has recreated the atmosphere of southern China with its wall of waterfalls and bamboo room dividers. It can hold a banquet given its seating capacity of 200.

Grandma’s is best known for its chicken in green tea flavor (45 yuan), whole chicken cooked in Longjing Tea for around seven hours.

Longjing, or Dragon Well, Tea is a popular green tea from Hangzhou. A restaurant staff said that for 750 grams of chicken meat, their specialty dish needs about 20 grams of Longjing Tea.

The meat is first immersed in salt water for two hours, then stewed for another two hours over a low flame. Afterwards, tea, salt and wolfberry are added before it is roasted for a few more hours. The meat is served sliced and, although it looks like a regular roasted chicken, it is more tender and has the unmistakable scent of green tea.

The restaurant staff said they use two varieties of Longjing to prepare this dish: Xihu, or West Lake, Longjing and Pre-Qingming Longjing. She said the people of Hangzhou also cook shelled shrimps in Longjing Tea.

The dishes at Grandma’s are reasonably priced. For instance, a cold dish of Tofu with XO Sauce is only 6 yuan. As the restaurant is popular among local diners, it is better to reserve a table before going.

Waipojia

Where: B1, Beijing Zhongguancun International Building, A18 Zhongguancun Nan Dajie, Haidian District
Open: 11 am – 2 pm for lunch; 5–9 pm for dinner
Cost: 40 yuan per person
Tel: 6215 6325



The interior of Waipojia restaurant



Waipojia’s most expensive dish, chicken with green tea flavor, is only 45 yuan.

The Buddha, cartoons and Taiwanese culture

By He Jianwei

It is not every day you see the Buddha and cartoon characters together in an art work. But this is exactly what some Taiwanese artists have done to tell the story of the island's society and culture.

"Buddhism and cartoons come from abroad. They are alien to us, but they have become part of Taiwanese culture," Yang Mao-Lin, one of the artists, said Saturday at the exhibition's opening ceremony at Lin & Keng Gallery.

"I put such things as Astro Boy, Peter Pan and Sun Wu-Kong together with the Buddha. They remind me of things from my childhood and the toys I played with. They make me continue to live childhood dreams with their great sense of freedom and innocence," said Yao, whose sculptures also incorporate animals and insects.

The works on display were created by 14 artists who belong to the Hantoo Art Group, one of the two most important art



Photo provided by Lin & Keng Gallery

groups in Taiwan. Hantoo means "defending pictures."

Founded in 1998 as a response to the art community's perceived obsession with conceptual art, Hantoo had splintered away from the Taipei Painting

Art Group, known for its members' fervent social commentary in the wake of the lifting of Taiwan's martial law in 1987.

While the original group was fueled by a desire to portray Taiwan's social gashes,

warts and scars, Hantoo took an

introspective approach and explored the island's history, myths, folk culture and reality with a dose of playfulness.

Lu Hsien-Ming, another Hantoo artist, focused on urban life and the effect of Taiwan's rapid industrialization over the past 50 years.

In his "City Aesthetics" painting series, massive transportation infrastructure like overpasses and expressways dominate the canvas.

"Twenty-first-century technology is cold and alienating. This coldness mixed with the warmth of humanity make up this island's intriguing landscape," Lu said.

Akudou Power

Where: Lin & Keng Gallery, 3 Dongbinhe Lu, Andingmen, Dongcheng District

When: Until May 12, 10 am - 7 pm

Tel: 8422 2322

Upcoming

Exhibition

Turner from the Tate Collection

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: April 24 - June 28, daily except Monday, 9 am - 4 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6403 4952

Stage in May

Concert

Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic Soloists

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 1-2, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-600 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

To Meet Haydn - Fu Cong Piano Recital

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: May 3, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

The Chanticleer Choir

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 6, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-380 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

China Philharmonic Orchestra Commemorates Haydn

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: May 16, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-680 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

China Philharmonic Orchestra Symphony Concert 2008-2009 Season

Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Liubukou, Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 23, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Opera

Puccini's La Boheme

Who: Directed by Chen Xinyi
Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 1-4, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

The Peony Pavilion

Who: China National Ballet
Where: Tianqiao Theater, 21 Beiwei Lu, Tianqiao, Xuanwu District

When: May 1-3, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-600 yuan

Tel: 8315 6337

Firebird Premiere & Classic Ballet Selections

Who: China National Ballet
Where: Beijing University Centennial Memorial Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: May 8-9, 7 pm

Admission: 20-280 yuan

Tel: 6275 1278

Thumbelina

Who: St. Petersburg State Children's Ballet
Where: Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 32 Ping'anli Xi Dajie, Xicheng District

When: May 29, 2:30 pm; 4 pm

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Tel: 5833 1288

5

Friday, April 17

Exhibition Pause

Xiao Bo's solo exhibition is part of Platform China Art Institute's "Mapping Asia" series - shows featuring young Asian artists.

Where: China World Trade Center Exhibition Hall, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: April 17-18, 10 am - 7 pm; April 19, 10 am - 5 pm

Admission: 50 yuan; 25

yuan for students
Tel: 6409 6667



Allegory of Electronic Images

Where: Today Art Museum, Pingod Community, 32

Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until April 26, daily

10 am - 5 pm

Admission: 10 yuan; 5 yuan

for students

Tel: 5876 0600

Movie

Seven Pounds

Where: Blend Coffee, 1354 Building 13, Jianwai SOHO West Zone, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5869 5030

Nightlife

Fat Art

Where: Today Art Museum, Pingod Community, 32

Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 5 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5876 0600

Motianlou Band

Where: Jianghu, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 10 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6401 4611

6

Saturday, April 18

Exhibition Being

Wang Jiazeng reveals a soul-stirring vision of human dissimulation in this solo exhibition. The figures in his prints are all in blue uniforms and cadre caps.

Where: Today Art Museum, Pingod Community, 32

Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until April 22, daily

10 am - 5 pm

Admission: 10 yuan; 5 yuan

for students

Tel: 5876 0600

Exhibition of Mao Daizong and his Son

Where: Ku Gallery, Daku Art Center, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 10, daily

except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9200

Nightlife

Acid Live

Where: 2 Kolegas (inside the drive-in movie park), 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 50 yuan; 40 yuan for students

Tel: 6436 8998

Wuliao Contingent's 10th-year Party - Reflector Band

Where: MAO Live House,

111 Gulou Dong Dajie,

Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 80 yuan

Tel: 6402 5080

Movie

Last Year at Marienbad & A

Brighter Summer Day



Where: Auditorium of the Ullens Center For Contemporary Art (UCCA), 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 3-7 pm

Admission: 15 yuan

Tel: 8459 9269

7

Sunday, April 19

Exhibition

British Contemporary Art

Where: Art Issue Projects, A1 Beigao, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 31, daily

except Monday, 11 am - 7:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6434 0266

Super China!



In this solo exhibition, Thai artist Navin Rawanchai-kul transforms UCCA's Nave into a playful zone where visitors become participants in the story of contemporary Chinese art.

Where: Ullens Center For Contemporary Art (UCCA), 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

District

When: Until June 12, daily

except Monday, 10 am - 7 pm

Admission: 15 yuan

Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife

Don't Eat Friends Charity

Concert

Where: Star Live, 3/F, 79 Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm

Admission: 60 yuan; 50

yuan for students

Tel: 6425 5677

Movie

Forever and Ever

Where: Sculpting in Time (inside Beihang University), 37 Xueyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: 1:45-4:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8231 0662

Lala's Gun

Where: Yugong Yishan, 3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 50 yuan; 30

yuan for students

Tel: 6404 2711

(By Jackie Zhang)

Hand foot and mouth back for the season

By Zhao Hongyi

Spring is on its way back, and so is hand foot and mouth disease (HFMD). Doctors say it is more common between early spring and autumn, and parents should pay special attention since it most often strikes infants and children under the age of 10.

The Ministry of Health confirmed over the weekend it had received 11,5618 reports of HFMD and 50 patients died as of April 7. The epidemic is most serious in the border areas of Shandong, Henan, Anhui and Jiangsu. It is also spreading in remote parts of Guangdong, Guangxi and Yunnan.

"The epidemic is on the rise, and more reports will come," Deng Haihua, the ministry's spokesman, said. It will peak between May and July.

The epidemic is spreading in Beijing too, the Municipal Health Bureau said. The capital now has 1,937 cases, of whom 88 percent are kids under five. The most seriously hit areas are Fengtai, Chaoyang, Haidian, Fangshan and Changping districts.

Last year, Beijing reported 18,488 cases of the disease, 119 of which were considered serious: two of the infected people died.



CFP Photos

Where does the virus come from?

HFMD syndrome is caused by intestinal viruses from the Picornaviridae family. The most common strains that can cause symptoms to appear are the Coxsackie A virus and Enterovirus 71.

The disease is moderately contagious and spreads through direct contact with the mucus, saliva or feces of an infected person. It typically occurs in pocket epidemics in nursery schools or kindergartens. The usual incubation period is three to seven days.

The disease is extremely uncommon in adults. Most adults have strong enough immune systems to defeat the

virus, but those with immune deficiencies can be very susceptible.

HFMD is not to be confused with foot-and-mouth disease, also called hoof-and-mouth disease, which is a syndrome affecting sheep, cattle and swine when exposed to a different Picornaviridae family virus.

A foot-mouth disease also exists in poultry, but it has never jumped to humans who were not poultry workers or who did not eat contaminated meat.

The viruses which cause HFMD take over the stomach and intestines. They can be spread like the flu by sharing daily utensils, flatware, food and toys.

Prevention still important

But the benefit of a lifetime of immunity is no excuse to slack off on prevention. Professor Zhang Baoyuan from the Capital Institute of Pediatrics said careful observation and good sanitation are the keys.

- Familiarity: HFMD is most common in May, June and July among infants, kids and children. Parents should pay more attention to signs of infection in their children during these months.

- Observation: Fever, low appetite, fatigue, panting or pneumonia is an indicator that it's time to see a doctor. Large bumps and the appearance of cold sores indicate a serious problem.

- Good personal hygiene is the first defense. Wash



hands frequently, do not spit in public, keep a regular schedule, avoid kissing, hugging and avoid sharing eating utensils or cups.

- Home sanitation is important. Open all the windows, because fresh air can kill stray bacteria and viruses. Try to get more sunshine, since it improves immunity.

- Keep your house clean and tidy, avoid stacking things in bedrooms, wash and store your children's toys and sterilize all kitchenware and toiletries.



Classic symptoms

A classic case of HFMD is characterized by fever, headache, vomiting, fatigue, malaise, sore throat, painful oral lesions and a non-itchy body rash. Later stages see the development of blisters on the palms and soles, oral ulcers, loss of appetite and diarrhea.

Early symptoms are likely to be fever followed by a sore throat. Loss of appetite and general malaise may also occur. Between one and two days after the onset of fever, painful sores (lesions) may appear in the mouth

and/or throat. A rash may become evident on the hands and feet, and occasionally on the buttocks.

The fever and spots usually clear within a few days. The mouth ulcers can be painful, and may last up to a week.

In a very small number of cases, the virus affects the heart, lungs or brain, causing a serious inflammation. Such complications are rare. There is some evidence that infection during pregnancy may cause a miscarriage or poor fetal development.

Treatment

Since HFMD may cause inflammation in the heart, brain or lungs, children showing symptoms of the virus should see a doctor immediately. Home care includes keeping the child's mouth clean and sanitary, and feeding him liquids. Follow-up checks are important, Sun Hongming, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, said.

Because HFMD is caused by a virus, there is no specific treatment or medicine available. It must be allowed to run its course. Only in the most severe cases will medicine be prescribed. Individual symptoms, such as fever and pain, may be eased with medication.

Chinese herbal medicines, however, can help to shorten recovery time, said Yang Lixing, chief pediatrician at the Guangzhou Herbal Medical Center. Common prescriptions combine a number of dried herbs which are extracted and drunk. Boil the herbs and drink for three to five days. The prescriptions vary with the phase of the illness, but recovery times as short as three to five days are not unheard of.

A child exposed to the virus will develop lifetime immunity, so it's best to let the child fight it off on his or her own.

In Beijing, the following hospitals are designated for receiving HFMD patients. They have also opened hotlines for the disease:

- Beijing You'an Hospital: 8399 7599
- Beijing Ditan Hospital: 8432 2566 8432 2669
- Beijing Children's Hospital: 6802 8401
- Capital Institute of Pediatrics: 5869 2611
- People's Hospital: 6658 3666, 8832 6666
- Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital: 8420 5288 8420 5299

Visit to an alternate world

A guide to Beijing's free museums

By Zhang Dongya

A museum is the ideal place to get a crash course on a country's history and culture. Last year, 33 museums in town began offering free admission to give the public a better understanding of China's past and present.

Most of the museums are located in the suburbs or attached to another tourist site. *Beijing Today* provides a guide to places that should not be missed.

China National Film Museum

This museum, opened in 2005 to celebrate the centennial of Chinese cinema, is the world's largest film museum. Movie aficionados will go gaga over its gigantic movie collection.

The building's design, by US-based RTKL International and Beijing Construction Design Institution, reflects the concept of finding a balance between film and architecture. The grand exterior features an image of a giant screen and a series of slanted structures resembling a film clipboard.

The interior of the four-story museum is divided into four halls colored red, green, blue and yellow.

The exhibition area covers the second and third floors and has 10 halls. Through multimedia presentations of Chinese films, visitors can follow the development of the local movie industry.

Five halls on the second floor focus on the history of Chinese cinema, from birth in 1905 of its first film *Dingjunshan*, or *Conquering the Jun Mountain*, to million-yuan modern blockbusters. The achievements of certain Chinese filmmakers are also documented.

On the third floor, another five halls show different types of films: animated, children's, science and educational, news and documentaries, even foreign films. They also introduce movies from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

The expo area on the top floor encompasses 10 halls, which focus on demystifying filmmaking. The exhibits present the various aspects of filmmaking: shooting, editing, musical scoring, special effects and developing.

Visitors are offered an interactive experience that allows them to make their own short films and record sounds. They can try their hand at dubbing and editing, and learn the secrets of the trade like reverse-action filming and rear-screen projection. People who can only spare one day at the museum should head straight to the expo area.

Scattered throughout the museum's 20 exhibition halls are dioramas that tell the story of Chinese cinema. Old equipment like spotlights and lenses are also on display.

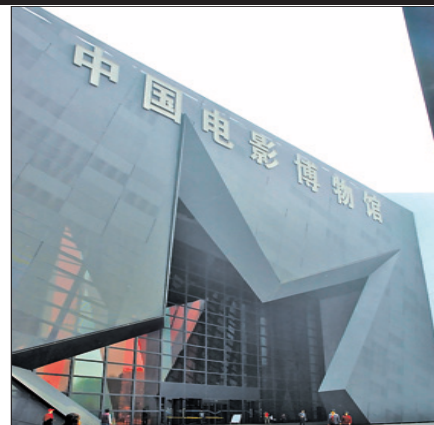
There is a small snack shop in the building for visitors who want refreshments. There is also a cafe for those who want to sit down and catch their breath. Customers can use the cafe's Internet connection to surf the Web for free.

The museum has theaters that showcase movies in various formats: IMAX, digital and 35mm film. IMAX, also called the "giant screen," is one of the most advanced cinema systems. It has a powerful multiple sound track system, including surround sound.

The museum's IMAX cinema, which can seat about 400, is highly recommended. It charges a fee, but is still cheaper than other movie houses; 2D films are 30 yuan, while 3D ones are 50 yuan.

The three 35mm theaters, which screen domestic and international award-winning films, charge 2 yuan.

Visitors to the museum need to make an appointment over the phone or on the Internet. Walk-in visitors are allowed, but they cannot be guaranteed tickets.



The building's exterior features a giant screen design.



Underwater cinematographic equipment



Props appeared that in old films



A filmmaking scene is reproduced at the museum.



China's national song was originally a movie theme song.

Photos by Jason Wang

Where: 9 Nanyang Lu, Chaoyang District
Getting there: Take bus 402, 418, 688 or 973 to Naogao stop, then follow street signs to get to the museum on foot.
Tel: 5165 4567
Web site: cnfm.org.cn
Open: Daily except Monday, 9 am - 4:30 pm

The museum's design reflects the concept of finding a balance between film and architecture.

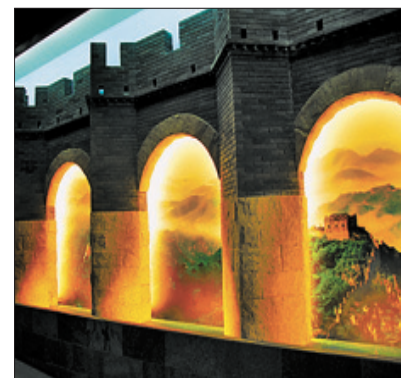
Continued on page 21...

... continued from page 20



Written on the wall is the most famous line from the Dream of the Red Mansions.

Photos by Li Qi



A miniature of the Jiumenkou Great Wall

The Great Wall Museum of China

Located on the western side of the Badaling Pass, the museum shows the history of the Great Wall and its current situation.

Stepping into the museum is like visiting the Wall. Zigzagging passages inside the building look like the winding Great Wall as seen from a distance. There are also replicas of its mountain passes and beacon towers.

Exhibitions include equipment used to build the Wall, battles conducted on it and national treasures from it. There is also information on how it developed throughout the centuries, its structures and patterns, and the historical sites and cultural relics along the Wall.

Where: Badaling Great Wall Scenic Area, Yanqing County

Open hours: Daily except Monday, 9 am – 5 pm

Tel: 6912 1890

Beijing Dabaotai Museum of the Western Han Tombs



A restored part of the Western Han Tombs

The museum is in Dabaotai Village, on the site of the mausoleum of Liu Jian, the King of the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC – 8 AD). It is one of the few well-preserved Western Han Dynasty mausoleums of its size.

The museum features relics unearthed from the "underground palace," like chariots, silk goods, pottery, lacquerware and items made of bronze, iron and jade. There is also an exhibit of imperial mausoleums throughout Chinese history.

Where: Dabaotai Cun (next to the Beijing World Park), Fengtai District

Open: Daily except Monday, 9 am – 4 pm

Tel: 8361 2852

Beijing Ethnic Costumes Museum

China is home to 56 ethnic groups, whose distinct characteristics and traditions are expressed in their costumes. The Ethnic Costumes Museum, a cultural research institution managed by the Beijing Institute of Clothing Technology, showcases the clothes and ornaments of the various ethnic groups.

The museum's treasures include over 1,000 pieces of clothing from the Miao, including the group's silver ornaments.

Where: A2 Yinghua Road (on the northern entrance of Heping Lu), Chaoyang District

Open: Monday and Tuesday,

8:30-11:30 am

Thursday, Friday and Saturday,

1:30-4:30 pm

Tel: 6428 8261

Cao Xueqin's Memorial

Cao Xueqin, one of the giants in Chinese literature, is best known for his masterpiece *Dream of the Red Mansions*.

His memorial is located inside Beijing Botanical Gardens at the foot of Xiangshan, the Fragrant Hills. The place is free, but visitors can only enter through the garden, which charges an admission fee of 10 yuan. But now is the best season to see the botanical garden, so the money is worth it.

Cao was born into a prominent family in Nanjing. When he was around 30, his family moved to the western suburbs of Beijing, where he lived most of his later years, and where the memorial was erected.

The memorial, surrounded by low walls, is divided into four courtyards and six exhibition rooms. Among the things on display are information about Cao's family, his work environment and the research that went into *Dream of the Red Mansions*. Visitors can finish a tour of the place in less than an hour.

All the exhibition rooms were designed based on Qing architecture, the period in which Cao lived. The front rooms present the living environment of the Qing Dynasty's eight banner groups, Cao's work atmosphere and related books and articles.

The back exhibition rooms mainly showcase Cao's life experiences and influences that went into his literary masterpiece. On display are old furniture, porcelain, religious items and household paraphernalia, including the horsetail that appeared in the book.

The museum has created a special room to house landmark research on Cao, and which contains various versions of the *Dream of the Red Mansions*. There are dioramas of some well-known scenes from the novel, including one of Granny Liu visiting the Rongguo Mansion.

Where: 39 Zhengbaiqi Cun, Xiangshan, Haidian District

Getting there: Take bus 318, 331, 360, 634, 696, 698, 714, 733 or 737 to Beijing Zhiwuyuan, or the Beijing Botanical Garden.

Tel: 6259 1561 ext. 2028

Open: Daily except Monday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Admission: 10 yuan for Beijing Botanical Gardens



The memorial's exhibition rooms were designed based on Qing architecture.



Various versions of Dream of the Red Mansions at Cao Xueqin's Memorial.

Other memorials:

Xu Beihong's Memorial

Where: 53 Xinjiekou Bei Dajie, Xicheng District
Open: Daily except Monday, 9:30 am – 5 pm
Tel: 6227 6939

Laoshe's Memorial

Where: 19 Fengfu Hutong, Dengshikou Xi Jie, Dongcheng District
Open: Daily except Monday, 9 am – 5 pm
Tel: 6514 2612

Yes Man (2008)

Movie of the Week

British author and journalist Danny Wallace spent a year saying "Yes" to all life's questions. The diary of how his life changed during that time was adapted into an autobiography, which was the basis for this latest Jim Carrey movie. A single word may not change your life, but it might give people pause to consider just what they miss out on when they say "no."

Synopsis

Carl Allen is at a standstill. He has no future. But that changes the day he enrolls in a personal development program based on a very simple idea: saying yes to everything! Carl discovers the magical power of "Yes" and sees his professional and romantic life turned upside down overnight by an unexpected promotion and a new girlfriend. But he soon discovers that "better" can be the enemy of "good," and some opportunities should not be embraced.

Scene 1: At a video store

(Carl and Peter are talking on the phone.)

Carl (C): Bonjour.

Peter (P): Carl, I know it's you.

C: Oh. Hey, man. I was just about to call you. That's so weird. Had your number dialed, was about to press "send." Did you block your number?

P: Yeah, I did. You never answer when I don't. So, what are you doing?

C: Oh, just **hanging out (1)** in my apartment.

P: You did get my text, right?

C: What? Text? What?

P: We're all going out tonight.

C: Man, that sounds great. I

wish I could join you. I'm just so **jammed up (2)**. I'm totally **off the grid (3)**, you know?

P: No, I don't at all.

C: I got a bunch of stuff going on. There's this thing I gotta do. Any other night would've been great. **Darn it to heck (4)**.

P: Thing? What thing?

C: Thing, you know, just a thing. If I had my thing in front of me, I could tell you what it is ... but I know there's a thing.

P: A thing. I don't think there's anything written down in your fake calendar.

C: No, it says specific things.

P: Specific things. Like "Get in line at the video store"?

C: What? What are you talking about? I'm not at the video store. I'm in my apartment.

P: I can see you, Carl. I'm outside the video store.

C: That's not me.

P: It's not?

C: Oh, I know what's happening. There is this guy who looks just like me ... who goes to a lot of the same stores I do. That's probably who you're seeing.

P: Wow, that's amazing ... because his mouth is moving **in sync with (5)** what you're saying. Carl, I know you're not saying anything. Carl, get outside. I know you're not talking.

C: What? All right.

Scene 2: In Griffith Park

(Allison is teaching a jogging photo group, when Carl comes to her class.)

Allison (A): Carl, this is everybody.

C: Hey, everybody. Come on. Let's get into shipshape. Hold that. Got it.

A: Hey, Carl, you okay? Hold it right there.

C: That's good.

A: I can't **put my finger on (6)** you. You're kind of unpredictable. Kind of mysterious.

C: You know, listen. I like to keep it fresh. I like to live it up. I like to mix it up. If that doesn't **jive with (7)** you, we should end this.

A: I love that. I don't know how people go through life with the same boring routine. Just shoot me.

C: I know. Right in the face.

A: Seriously, I dated this guy and I was astounded at how content he was ... just living his life in this closed-off little box.

C: I know. It's so frustrating. I just wanna grab these people and shake them. Say, "Wake up, you. You're missing out on a little thing called life."

A: That's so true.

C: Yeah. So, what happened to closed-off-little-box boy?

A: It just didn't work out.

It's a long story.

C: Yeah? Same story you were singing about last night?

A: Might be.

C: Closed-off-little-box boy, tender topic. Probe no further.

A: Okay, if you must know, we lived together. I thought he was it, the one, or whatever. And then surprise, he ended it, out of nowhere for no reason. Gone, never saw him again.

C: Wow. That's rough. I'm sorry. Next time you should warn me about the length of the story, though. Kind of **dragged on (8)**.

A: I'll work on that.

C: Yeah, just trim the fat. Ooh! Jeez. That was very healthy.

Scene 3: In a hospital

(Carl and the "Yes" lecturer are sent to a hospital after they got hurt in an accident.)

C: Oh, thank God. Terrence. You have to remove the covenant. It's killing me.

Terrence (T): First of all, what were you doing in my car?

C: I told you, I need you to remove the covenant.

T: There is no covenant. There never was. I was just **riffing (9)**.

C: Riffing?

T: Well, I had to say something. You were being difficult, embarrassing me in front of my crowd.

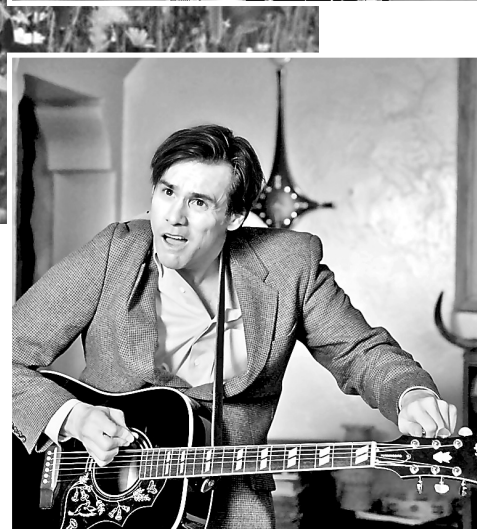
C: So the whole yes thing is all bullshit?

T: No. You just don't know how to use it, that's all.

C: Yeah, I do. Say "Yes" to everything. Real tough to grasp.

T: No, that's not the point. Well, maybe at first it is, but that's just to open you up to it ... to get you started. Then you're saying yes, not because you have to ... not because a covenant tells you to ... but because you know in your heart that you want to.

C: Yeah. You're right. That makes perfect sense.



Vocabulary:

- 1. Hang out:** to spend time with someone doing nothing in particular
- 2. Be jammed up:** crowded, here means very busy
- 3. Off the grid:** living without reliance on public services, here it means one has to do things on one's own
- 4. Darn it to heck:** "darn" and "heck" are substitutes for

"damn" and "hell"

- 5. In sync with:** to adjust time or manner in tandem
- 6. Put one's finger on:** to point out or discover
- 7. Jive with:** to get along with
- 8. Drag on:** to last unnecessarily long
- 9. Riff:** a succinct, witty comment

(By Zhang Dongya)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

All bark and no bite



CFP Photo

By Venus Lee

College is a special time in a person's intellectual and emotional development that should be filled with fond memories. I hoped mine would have a perfect ending, but it was ruined by a conflict with my roommate a few months before graduation.

My roommate, Huang Ruihua, got hooked on computer games. He played Counter-Strike (CS) every night, with the sound on full volume, till the wee hours of the morning. The noise and the flashing lights prevented me from getting any sleep, but I tried to deal with the situation as diplomatically as I could.

I asked him more than a dozen times to turn down the volume on his five-speaker stereo or to use earphones when he plays late.

But he refused, saying doing so would weaken his game.

In order to keep the peace, I swallowed my anger and resorted to sleeping with earplugs or earphones. But I would still get jolted awake by the sound of gunshots, and I would lie there unable to get back to sleep. I developed a nervous disorder from the sleep deprivation and my grades started slipping.

As a last resort, I lodged a complaint with the dean against Ruihua. The dean spoke to him, and I thought my problems would come to an end.

My life went from bad to worse.

Ruihua got terribly upset with what I did; he felt humiliated getting called into the dean's office, so he deliberately antagonized me. Aside

from keeping his loudspeakers blasting while playing CS, he sang loudly inside our room and cheered the games on the sports channel after I went to bed. He said that if I filed another complaint with the dean, he would knock my teeth out.

I sought solace in Liu Xinyi, one of my best friends. She sympathized with me, saying: "Don't worry about him. He's a guy who can only use his mouth but not his hand."

Despite my misery, I burst into laughter. "He's not disabled, why wouldn't he be able to use his hand? A better way to say it is 'he is all bark and no bite.'"

Actually, what worried me most was not getting into a fistfight with Ruihua, but whether we would ever become friends again. We

lived under the same roof for three years and had a lot of fun times together. As graduation day neared, I kept thinking of ways to patch things up with him.

Unfortunately, things did not turn out as I wished. Built-up animosity erupted in a fight one night. We got into a shouting match and then started throwing punches at each other.

Ironically, Ruihua lost the fight even though he was much stronger than me. I was hardly happy with the outcome since I lost one of my best friends in college.

The following day, Liu asked me what happened the moment she saw the bruises on my face. "He used his nails instead of his hand," I said. "What did I say? He is all bark and no bite."

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Vegan, vegetarianism and organic eating

The problem with this phrase lies in the categorization of items. "Vegan" is the abbreviation for "vegetarian," which refers to a person who practices "vegetarianism," which in turn is an eating practice. How can the first two words be equated with each other as subjects? What the writer wishes to say should simply be written as "vegetarianism and organic eating."

2. Don't have that too

People nowadays seem to be careless about the construction of such negative sentences; even native English speakers commit the same mistakes. According to Standard English grammatical teaching, when you express one negative idea over another, or when you wish to strengthen a negative statement in contradiction or retraction, you have to use the word "either," not "too." Take a look at these examples: "If you do not go, I shall not go either." "You have not finished your homework; I haven't either."

3. In last year

The adverbial of time is wrongly constructed. When you wish to refer to the previous year, you simply say "last year"; it is not necessary to put a preposition before it. For instance you say, "I went to the sea resort of Qingdao last year." You will never say, "I went to the sea resort of Qingdao in last year." It is like adding feet to the drawing of a snake, as a Chinese saying goes. Similarly, "last Sunday," "last month" and "last decade" do not need a preposition before them.

Native speaker: Penny Turner

1. Vegan, vegetarianism and organic eating

"Vegan" is not equivalent to "vegetarian" but a narrower classification of it; while some vegetarians consume dairy products like milk or butter, vegans eat only plant products. But it is correct that the two words are not on the same "level" and should therefore not be used parallel each other as in the phrase above. Like Professor Zhu said, drop "vegan" from the list.

2. Don't have that too

Yes, this is a common mistake even among native English speakers – just watch the latest Hollywood blockbuster or TV series. "Too" is used for positive sentences just as "either" is used for negative ones. If you need help remembering, just consider the following "positive" and "negative" scenarios in which you say "I love you too" and "I do not love you either."

3. In last year

Like Professor Zhu said, it is wrong to stick "in" before "last year." I have heard such phrases numerous times from locals, so take note of this mistake.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.



Photo provided by chinglish.de

Have a dog

By Tiffany Tan

This is another sign that poses a danger to one's health and well-being. It should be telling people to "stay away" because there are guard dogs inside. Instead, it is inviting people to come closer with the lure of a free dog. And who does not want a free dog, especially if it is a tiny, furry, playful puppy?

"Beware of dogs" would work better, although the Chinese words translate to "There are dogs, do not come near."

People who want to be cheeky can also keep the sign and just add one word. "Have a dog (bite)." That should bring the message across very clearly without sounding rude and selfish.

Dining

Secretary's week



Treat your secretary to a lavish dinner spread and select from a huge range of freshly prepared Pan-Asian dishes, including a sinfully good dessert buffet and fresh fruit and vegetable juices. All secretaries will receive a cocktail and special gift.

Where: Elements, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 20-24

Cost: 88 yuan (subject to 15 percent surcharge)

Tel: 5865 5020

Amazing Thai Food



Savor mouthwatering Thai food by the culinary team from Shangri-La Chiang Mai. Authentic delights such as Pad Thai, Som Tam, Tom Yam Goong are some of the beloved favorites offered alongside classic dishes. Get ready for a delightfully authentic culinary experience.

Where: Shangri-La's Kerry Centre, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 20 – May 2

Tel: 65618833 ext. 40

April Wagyu Beef Festival



Shiro Matsu provides top quality Wagyu beef. Executive Chef brings Wagyu and traditional dishes to the Sumibiyaki grill. A drop of secret Japanese sauce makes it even more delicious. Guests can select their portion size and sit at the Sumibiyaki Bar, which overlooks a flowing pool and pine tree and offers a view of the chefs at work.

Where: Shiro Matsu, 23 Qianmen Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until April 30

Tel: 6559 6266

The Yangtze River Seafood Festival



Awaken to the fresh and fragrant taste of spring. The Schonbrunn Hotel is serving the finest swellfish cuisine.

Where: Hui Quanxuan Chinese restaurant, The Schonbrunn Hotel, 125 Xi Sihuan Bei Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 88869999 ext. 8706

The Fragrance of Tea Leaves

Sample a new menu of aromatic dishes infused with the delicate fragrance of tea leaves and prepared with the finest ingredients.

Where: Celestial Court, The St. Regis Beijing, 21 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Monday – Friday, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm (lunch), 6-10 pm (dinner)

Tel: 6460 6688 ext. 2460

All You Can Eat Dim Sum



Indulge in the most authentic Cantonese Dim Sum. Signature dishes include Steamed Prawn Dumplings with Dried Sole and Steamed Siew Mai with Shrimp.

Where: Yao Chi Cantonese Restaurant, Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Saturday and Sunday, 11 am – 2:30 pm

Cost: 128 yuan (10 percent early-bird discount when paying before 12:15 pm)

Tel: 6530 9383

Hotel

Shangri-La's Far Eastern Plaza Hotel Opens

Shangri-La's Far Eastern Plaza Hotel, Tainan is now open. The 336-room hotel, designed by Taiwan-based metro space design, has the city's largest guestrooms. Dining options include the all-day Cafe and Shanghai Pavilion, Tainan's only Huaiyang restaurant. The hotel also features The Lobby Lounge, The Cake Shop and The Mezzanine Bar. Additional facilities include state of the art meeting and banquet facilities, a health club, spa and outdoor swimming pool.

Where: Shangri-La's Far Eastern Plaza Hotel, 89 Section West, University Road, Tainan, Taiwan

Tel: (886-06) 702-8888

Aviation

Free upgrades for Singapore Airlines fliers

Customers may be able to upgrade on their next Singapore Airlines flight. At least two round trips in Economy Class are required for eligibility. The offer is open to all members of KrisFlier, the airline's frequent flier program. Non-members can sign up online at krisflier.com for the same benefits.

More details on free upgrades are available at singaporeair.com/upgrades.

(By Sun Feng)

GLOBAL TIMES 环球时报

English-language edition of Global Times launches **APRIL 20**

Discover China, Discover the World

- A discerning perspective on breaking news and sensitive issues
- Informed coverage of a changing world and a dynamic china
- National news, international news, and all the news you need to know

It's time to go Global

Global Times is published Monday to Friday, featuring 24 pages of in-depth reporting

At newsstands for 1.5 yuan Postal-distribution serial number: 1-181

Subscriptions available for 31.6 yuan/month; 94.8 yuan/quarter; 189.6 yuan/half-year; 266.3 yuan for 2009